

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

INTRODUCTION OF A BILL TO CLARIFY THE TAX TREATMENT OF SETTLEMENT TRUSTS ESTABLISHED PURSUANT TO THE ALASKA NATIVE CLAIMS SETTLEMENT ACT

HON. DON YOUNG

OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 25, 1999

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing a bill to clarify the tax treatment of Settlement Trusts authorized by the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act. This legislation is very similar to a bill that I introduced with my colleagues, Congressmen GEORGE MILLER and J.D. HAYWORTH, last Congress.

The bill has been further improved from last Congress and a companion measure was introduced in the Senate recently. The bill's introduction in the House before the Memorial Day recess is aimed at expediting consideration of it in Congress and within the executive branch. Once the recess has ended, I am expecting that the original cosponsors from last year as well as additional cosponsors will reintroduce the legislation for consideration in the House.

At the time the bill is reintroduced, those Members cosponsoring it and I will submit for our colleagues' information a detailed explanation of the bill along with background and history relating to it.

TRIBUTE TO THELMA BARRIOS

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 25, 1999

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Thelma Barrios, who this year is receiving the 3rd annual Chief Dominick J. Rivetti Award from the San Fernando Police Advisory Council. Thelma is editor and publisher of the San Fernando Sun, a weekly publication that serves San Fernando and the surrounding area. In an age of media conglomerates, and 24-hour news channels, the Sun is an excellent reminder of the value of a good community newspaper. Thelma works hard to make sure that local politics, community news and interesting activities involving Northeast Valley residents receive extensive coverage in the pages of her newspaper. Over the years I have found the Sun a pleasure to read.

Thelma's accomplishments are all the more remarkable considering the trajectory of her career. She started working at the Sun nearly 40 years ago as a bill collector, answering an ad that asked "for a man to do collections." That minor detail didn't deter Thelma, who went in and applied for the job anyway. The owner of the Sun, L.A. Copeland, offered Thelma the job, telling her that results were more important than whether he hired a man or a woman.

Thelma flourished at the paper. She went from bill collector, to telephone operator, to member of the classified advertising department and, finally, editor and publisher. It was a perfect match. Thelma works tremendously hard putting out the Sun each week. At the same time, she is never too busy to take another press release or listen to another story idea.

Though it's hard to believe, Thelma is not a San Fernando native. Along with her family, she came to California from Ohio in the early 1940s. Not long after the move, she met her future husband, Joseph Barrios, when the two of them worked together at a movie theater near downtown Los Angeles. Thelma and her husband, who passed away a few years ago, made the move to San Fernando soon after the end of World War II.

The Barrios family has strong ties to the city; Joe was a member of the San Fernando Police Force for 32 years.

Thelma has won two separate national journalism contests sponsored by the University of Missouri, and is the recipient of several awards from the Valley Press Club. The Dominick J. Rivetti Award, named in honor of my dear friend and the Chief of Police in San Fernando, recognizes Thelma's extraordinary contributions to the city.

I ask my colleagues to join me in saluting Thelma Barrios, whose dedication to her craft and devotion to her community inspire us all.

A TRIBUTE TO ALLEN L. SAMSON

HON. GERALD D. KLECZKA

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 25, 1999

Mr. KLECZKA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in tribute to Allen L. Samson, president, Liberty Bank, who on June 15, 1999 will receive the Star of David Award given by the Israel Bonds organization, Milwaukee. This award recognizes Allen for his support of Israel's economic development, involvement in humanitarian causes and his distinguished service to the community.

Allen Samson received his undergraduate and law degrees from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He served as deputy district attorney for Milwaukee County and was a founding partner in a local law firm. Allen changed careers in 1973 and concentrated his efforts on American Medical Services, a business founded by his father, which operated nursing homes and pharmacies. He served as the company's vice president for 10 years when he became the chief executive officer, as position he held until 1990. In 1994, Allen and a small group of investors purchased Liberty Bank, a community bank which specializes in servicing small businesses and individuals. Allen is currently president and chief executive officer of Liberty Bank.

Allen has been an active leader in the Jewish community where he has received numer-

ous awards and accolades. His support for Israel Bonds, the Milwaukee Jewish Federation, the Milwaukee Jewish Home and Care Center is unprecedented. He has been active in the United Way of Greater Milwaukee, earning the prestigious Fleur de Lis Award in 1996 for Excellent Achievement. He is active in many leadership positions in the Milwaukee-area arts community including the symphony and the art museum.

A devoted husband to Vicki Boxer for 21 years, Allen is the proud father of Daniel, Rachel, David and Nancy. He is a loving and doting grandfather.

Congratulations, Allen. You are truly deserving of this year's Star of David Award.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MICHAEL E. CAPUANO

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 25, 1999

Mr. CAPUANO. Mr. Speaker, due to inclement weather I, along with several other Members of Congress, was unavoidably detained in Massachusetts on the afternoon of May 24, 1999, and was therefore unable to cast a vote on rollcall votes 145 and 146. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall 145, and "yea" on rollcall 146.

RECOGNITION OF HUMANITARIAN SIDNEY WEINER

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 25, 1999

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize a significant milestone in the life of Sidney Weiner. On June 22, 1999, Sidney was presented the 17th annual Humanitarian Award by Congregation Kodimoh. Sidney Weiner has spent his life volunteering on behalf of many organizations in the community, and I would like to make note today of his many accomplishments.

Sidney was born in Worcester, MA, but moved to Springfield as a teenager. He attended Springfield public schools and eventually married Gert Levi at the old Kodimoh on Oakland St. in 1947. He operated many successful service stations and worked as an insurance agent before retiring in 1972.

Sidney's volunteer service, in his adult life, has been unparalleled. He was a volunteer for the Pioneer Valley Red Cross, through which he recruited countless blood donors. He has also practiced what he has preached, being a 10 gallon donor himself. Sidney is a 32d degree mason and has been Master of the Chicopee Lodge and District Deputy Grand Master of the Chicopee 18th Masonic District. Since joining the Melha Temple Shrine in 1959, Sidney has chaired their blood program. He has

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

also brought smiles to countless children through his membership and participation in the Melha Clown Unit.

Sidney has been a volunteer at Baystate Medical Center for nearly 20 years. In 1990, he was elected the first male president of the Baystate Medical Center Auxiliary. Sidney has also been involved with the Ronald McDonald House. In fact, his involvement began even before the house was built almost 10 years ago. He has held many various titles there, and is currently the president of the board of directors. For the past 3 years, Sidney has been chairman of Parking for the Rays of Hope Walk, which raises funds each fall for breast cancer research. He and his wife, Gert, also spend every Sunday in July and August volunteering at Tanglewood. Sidney is a long-time member of Kodimoh and its Brotherhood, and is a regular minyanair. He has also been a regular volunteer on various projects and committees with Kodimoh. Sidney and Gert's daughter, Nancy Squires, and her husband, Bill, and their three daughters, Maxine, Sarah, and Michelle, are also active members of Kodimoh.

Mr. Speaker, allow me to pay tribute to the service, commitment, and character of Sidney Weiner. He has proven himself to be an indispensable member of his community through his service and leadership. Sidney Weiner is truly a role model for community involvement and pride in his faith. Kodimoh, and the entire Western Massachusetts community, has been blessed to have been touched by Sidney Weiner's involvement and service.

ZONTA CLUB OF OAK PARK CELEBRATES ITS 65TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. LUIS V. GUTIERREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 25, 1999

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the Zonta Club of Oak Park, Illinois. The Zonta Club of Oak Park was organized in February 1934 and was chartered on May 26 that same year. It is the 127th chapter of Zonta International, a worldwide service organization of executives in business and the workforce that began in 1919 to advance the status of American women. The Zonta Club of Oak Park will be celebrating its 65th anniversary on May 26, 1999.

The Zonta Club of Oak Park has contributed time and money and has worked tirelessly for women's rights since it was organized. Throughout its history, the Zonta Club of Oak Park has supported many local organizations, such as the alliance for the Mentally Ill, Cook County Hospital, Literacy Volunteers of Western Cook County and the Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago. The Club also gives financial support to international service projects selected by Zonta International through the United Nations and has directly affected the fate of more than 700,000 women and girls through projects in countries such as Argentina, Bangladesh, Ghana, India, Jordan and Zimbabwe.

The Zonta Club of Oak Park has a strong dedication to women's higher education and has supported literacy projects. The Club supports the Young Women in Public Affairs scholarship program by recognizing and

awarding scholarships to local high school seniors to encourage young women to enter careers or seek leadership positions in social policymaking, government and volunteer organizations. The Club also gives financial support to the Amelia Earhart fellowship award program, which was founded in 1938 to support women pursuing graduate degrees in aerospace-related sciences and engineering. The program has supported more than 500 women from forty-eight countries in more than 800 fellowships.

Mr. Speaker, I commend the work of the Zonta Club of Oak Park and their efforts to promote literacy, fight domestic violence and encourage students to participate in international service projects. I am pleased to congratulate them on their 65th anniversary.

RUSS MORGAN HONORED

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 25, 1999

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Russ Morgan Orchestra as it celebrates more than sixty years in the entertainment business. I am pleased and proud to bring this worthy milestone to the attention of my colleagues.

Born in Scranton, Russ Morgan grew up in my hometown of Nanticoke. After working in the coal mines to earn money for his music education, he began playing the piano at a Scranton theater for extra money at the age of 14. Morgan went on to play trombone with a local band called the "Scranton Sirens," with notable colleagues like Tommy Dorsey, Jimmy Dorsey, and Billy Lustig. When he was 18, Russ left Pennsylvania for New York City to find his fortune in the music business. By the time he was 25, he was arranging music for John Phillip Sousa and Victor Herbert. After playing for Paul Specht and touring Europe with Specht's orchestra, Morgan went to Detroit to work with Jean Goldkette on forming a new band. There, he was reunited with the Dorsey brothers and some of his other associates from his early career. Eventually, Morgan became Musical Director of WXYZ in Detroit with his own very popular show. He also showcased his classical talent by arranging for the Detroit Symphony.

At about this time in his career, Morgan was sidelined by a serious automobile accident that forced him to spend months in the hospital. Upon his recovery, he returned to New York City to restart his career by arranging music for all the famous night clubs of the time and many Broadway shows. In 1934, he worked at Brunswick Records, where he met his wife and became friends with the famous Rudy Vallee. Morgan was encouraged to form his own orchestra and Vallee got him his first engagement at the famous Biltmore Hotel. Following an impressive 4 years at the Biltmore, Morgan played on television and at most of the famous hotels and resorts of the era. On one recording he made during that period, he used a quartet that would later become the famous Ames Brothers. In 1965, with sons Jack and David in the ensemble, Russ Morgan began a long engagement in Las Vegas that was cut short only by his death in 1969.

Mr. Speaker, the Russ Morgan Orchestra, now in the able hands of his son Jack, has been bringing us wonderful music for over six decades. The ensemble's founder never forgot his roots as a young coal miner in Northeastern Pennsylvania. I extend my best wishes for continued success to Jack and the Morgan family as they carry on the legacy of the great Russ Morgan on this milestone anniversary. What greater tribute could his beloved son pay him, than to carry on his music to new generations.

MILITARY INVOLVEMENT IN INTERNATIONAL AIR AND TRADE SHOWS

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 25, 1999

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation to stop the use of taxpayer funds from subsidizing the U.S. defense industry at international air and trade shows.

Prior to 1991 the federal government avoided any direct military involvement in air shows and arms bazaars. For the first time, during the Bush administration, military personnel and equipment were permitted in foreign air shows and weapons exhibitions. The aircraft used, during these air shows and weapons exhibitions, is paid for with American taxpayer dollars. The fees involved include the cost of insurance, ramp fees, transportation to and from the show and payment for government personnel needed to attend and monitor the show. In June of 1991 the Secretaries of Defense and Commerce changed the practice that the Pentagon had previously followed of leasing U.S. aircraft to industry at air shows. The practice adopted allows for the loan of the Department of Defense (DoD) aircraft to defense contractors free of charge. This means that taxpayers pay for the cost of industry participation at air shows and arms bazaars. If taxpayers are not sharing in the profits made during the air shows and arms exhibitions, why should they share in the cost?

An example of this wasteful practice occurred in Singapore in 1992, during an air show intended to demonstrate new marine aviation technology. The Marine aircraft crashed and the American taxpayers were left with a bill of \$18.9 million. In response to the crash Congressman HOWARD BERMAN sponsored an amendment to the FY93 Authorization bill which puts a limit on the government's ability to participate in air shows. The amendment requires the President to notify Congress 45 days prior to any participation in further air shows. It also requires that participation be in the interest of national security. In addition, the amendment requires a cost estimate to be submitted to Congress as well.

In order to side step the Berman amendment, DoD sends aircraft and personnel to air shows on so called "training missions." This fulfills the requirement that the air show be in the interest of national security.

It is important to look at the total cost of foreign air shows in order to realize the abuse by the federal government on the American taxpayer. A conservative calculation of the total cost of taxpayer subsidies for 1996 and 1997 was at least \$68.4 million. That is an average

of \$34.2 million per year wasted at foreign airshows and arms bazaars. This figure is up over 31 percent over the period from 1994 to 1995.

The Clinton administration has been under-reporting cost and involvement to the U.S. by excluding transportation costs to and from the foreign shows. The costs reported by the Pentagon to Congress are 15 to 20 times less than the actual costs, leaving the U.S. taxpayer to pick up the tab. An example of this practice is the transfer of a B-2 bomber from the United States to France for a demonstration at an air show in Paris in 1995. This flight to Paris involved at least a 24-hour round trip ticket. The cost to operate the plane for one hour is \$14,166, for a cost of over \$330,000. The total cost submitted to Congress by the Pentagon to cover the entire show was underestimated at \$342,916.

The bill I am introducing today, the "Restrictions on Foreign Air Shows Act" bans any further direct participation of Defense personnel and equipment at air shows unless the defense industry pays for the advertising and use of the DoD wares. The bill prohibits sending planes, equipment, weapons, or any other related material to any overseas air show unless the contractor has paid for the expenses incurred by DoD. If a contractor decides to participate in the air show, he or she must lease the equipment, cover insurance costs, ramp fees, transportation fees, and any other costs associated with the air show. If a contractor is making a profit by showing the aircraft, they will also be required to pay for the advertisement and use of the aircraft. In addition, military and government personnel will not be allowed at the show unless the contractor pays for their services during the air show.

This bill in no way outlaws the use of U.S. Aircraft or other equipment in foreign air shows or other trade exhibitions. The bill simply takes the financial burden off of the American taxpayer and puts it on the defense contractor. I strongly urge my colleagues to support this bill.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE CRUISE LINE INDUSTRY IN ALASKA AND THE UNITED STATES

HON. DON YOUNG

OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 25, 1999

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to address an issue that is very critical to the constituents of my home State of Alaska. The issue I wish to speak about is the significant contribution which the cruise line industry has made to the great State of Alaska and this country.

Alaska is a State where the land mass is larger than all of the Northeastern and Great Lakes States put together. Approximately 600,000 Americans live there. Many Americans have heard of Alaska and have some image of its wildness but fewer than 10 percent of Americans have ever visited. Nonetheless, the opportunity for Americans to visit this great state has increased tenfold with the presence of the cruise industry. Furthermore, the economic benefits that the cruise lines bring have greatly impacted Alaska.

Recently, Price Waterhouse Coopers (PwC) and Wharton Econometric Forecasting Associates concluded a Study on the Economic Impact of the Cruise Industry on the U.S. economy. This study reveals that the cruise industry spent \$6.6 billion in the United States in 1997, and generated an additional \$5 billion of impact on the economy. In the United States alone, the cruise lines purchased \$1.8 billion in transportation from airlines, \$794 million in fuel and lubricants, \$626 million in business services, \$1 billion in financial services, and \$600 million in food and beverage supplies. In the State of Alaska in 1998, the cruise industry spent with Alaskan business and service providers \$363,274,000. These statistics are significant and make clear that the cruise industry has benefited both the state of Alaska and our Nation.

This study also reveals that the cruise industry created 176,433 jobs for U.S. citizens in 1997. These jobs included direct employment by the industry and jobs attributable to the U.S. based cruise line suppliers and industry partners. Through its annual growth of 6–10 percent, the industry is responsible for thousands of new jobs every year for Americans. The cruise industry is the single largest direct employer in the maritime sector of the United States. In my State of Alaska in 1998, the cruise industry was responsible for the employment of 17,189 Alaskans. That is 3 percent of the population of our State.

Another issue that I wish to address is the matter regarding Federal and State taxation of the cruise industry. Some critics state that the cruise industry does not pay federal and state taxes in the United States. This statement is false. In fact the recently completed study revealed that the industry pays millions of dollars in taxes each year. In 1997, the cruise industry paid over \$1 billion in Federal, State, and local taxes in the United States.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak to the contributions made by the cruise industry to our great Nation. The benefits have been abundant, both throughout this nation and in my home State, Alaska. In view of the many contributions, I wish to acknowledge the vital role which the cruise industry plays in sustaining the economy and the maritime sector of this country.

TRIBUTE TO FRANKYE SCHNEIDER

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 25, 1999

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to my dear friend, Frankye Schneider, who this year is being honored by the 40th Assembly District of the Democratic party. For more than two decades, Frankye held the position of senior deputy to Los Angeles County Supervisor Ed Edelman. Frankye has always considered it an honor to work in politics. She cherished the opportunity to use the resources and power of government to help individual citizens.

Frankye was the perfect model of a professional and compassionate staff person. She was never too busy to listen to the concerns of another resident, and to speak out on behalf of a homeowners' association, chamber of commerce or non-profit agency. Although dis-

tricts in Los Angeles County contain more people than many states, it somehow seemed as if everyone was on a first-name basis with Frankye.

It would be impossible in such a short space to mention each and every contribution Frankye made to our community during the time she worked for Supervisor Edelman. The list of people and organizations that benefitted from her efforts is truly myriad. Frankye had an extremely wide range of interests, including the arts, the environment, education, mental health and juvenile justice.

She is a lifetime member of the PTA, immediate past president of the San Fernando Valley Community Mental Health Center, and a former Board Member of New Directions for Youth and the United Way. After she left the staff of Supervisor Edelman, Frankye worked for the Los Angeles County Museum of Art and the Los Angeles County Museum of Natural History.

Frankye has a deep and abiding interest in the fortunes of the Democratic Party. She was a founding member and the first chair of the Democratic Party of the San Fernando Valley, and she has represented the 40th Assembly District at California Democratic party conventions for many years. Frankye also did extensive volunteer work for George McGovern's 1972 presidential campaign and Tom Bradley's 1973 campaign for mayor of Los Angeles.

Frankye doesn't know the meaning of the word "retirement." She continues to stay active in the community and with a variety of organizations. She also spends as much time as she can with her three children and four grandchildren.

I ask my colleagues to join me in saluting Frankye Schneider, who has devoted much of her life to bettering the lives of others. Her dedication and selflessness inspire us all.

CONSTITUTIONAL IMPASSE CONTINUES IN BELARUS

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 25, 1999

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, on May 16, the alternative Presidential election concluded in Belarus within the timeframe envisioned by the legitimate 1994 Constitution. While the opposition Central Election Commission (CEC) concluded that the final results of the voting were invalid because of various violations deriving from the impediments placed by Belarusian authorities, the ballot served as an important barometer of democratic engagement by the citizens of Belarus. In the months leading up to the election, President Alyaksandr Lukashenka had imprisoned one of the two Presidential candidates—former Prime Minister Mikhail Chygyr—on what were clearly politically motivated charges, arrested hundreds of election officials and volunteers, and instituted administrative proceedings against others. Nevertheless, the authorities were unable to thwart the election in at least one critically important respect—according to the opposition CEC, the voting itself was valid because more than half—or 53 percent of the electorate—participated. When one considers that these were unsanctioned elections that

challenged Lukashenka's legitimacy, this is a substantial number of people.

No matter what the imperfections, Mr. Speaker, the opposition's electoral initiative should send a powerful message to Lukashenka. Clearly, an appreciable number of Belarusian citizens are dissatisfied with the profoundly negative political and socio-economic fallout stemming from his dictatorial inclinations and misguided nostalgia for the Soviet past or some misty "Slavic Union." The vote highlights the constitutional and political impasse created by Lukashenka's illegitimate 1996 constitutional referendum, in which he extended his personal power, disbanded the duly elected 13th Supreme Soviet, and created a new legislature and constitutional court subservient to him.

Last month, the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe (Helsinki Commission), which I chair, held a hearing on the situation in Belarus, with a view toward promoting human rights and democracy there. Testimony from the State Department, OSCE mission in Belarus, the Belarusian democratic opposition and several human rights NGOs all reaffirmed that Belarus is missing out on what one witness characterized as "the great market democratic revolution that is sweeping Central and Eastern Europe and Eurasia" because of Lukashenka's power grab and backsliding on human rights and democracy.

Despite repeated calls from the international community, including the Helsinki Commission, for Lukashenka to cease harassment of the opposition, NGO's and the independent media; allow the opposition access to the electronic media; create the conditions for free and fair elections and strengthen the rule of law, we have failed to see progress in these areas. Indeed, we see more evidence of reversals. Earlier this year, for example, Lukashenka signed a decree which introduces extensive restrictions on non-governmental activity and mandates re-registration—by July 1—of political parties, NGOs and trade unions. The decree, which among other onerous stipulations requires that organizations acknowledge the results of Lukashenka's illegitimate 1996 referendum, is clearly designed to destroy democratic civil society in Belarus and further consolidate Lukashenka's repressive rule. Moreover, within the last few months, several disturbing incidents have occurred, among them the March arrests of Viktor Gonchar, Chairman of the opposition CEC, and the Chygir imprisonment, as well as the mysterious disappearances of Tamara Vinnikova, former chair of the National Bank of Belarus and, on May 10, Gen. Yuri Zakharenko, former Interior Minister and a leading opponent of Lukashenka. Just a few days ago, Lukashenka's government announced that no more foreign priests will be allowed to serve in Belarus, making it extremely difficult for the Roman Catholic Church, which is rebuilding following the travails of the Soviet era, to function.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly urge the Belarusian Government to comply with its freely undertaken commitments under the Helsinki Final Act and subsequent OSCE agreements and to immediately, without preconditions, convene a genuine dialog with the country's democratic forces and with the long-suffering Belarusian people.

TRIBUTE TO DR. AUGUSTO ORTIZ AND MARTHA ORTIZ

HON. ED PASTOR

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 25, 1999

Mr. PASTOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Dr. Augusto Ortiz and his wife, Mrs. Martha Ortiz. For 50 years, this outstanding team has provided medical and clinical services to the under-served, rural and urban, Spanish-speaking populations of Arizona. Dr. Ortiz, a medical doctor who graduated from the University of Illinois in 1945, provided the medical services while Martha, who rarely accepted compensation for her services, acted as the full-time administrator, personnel director, and business manager of the practice. The willingness of Dr. and Mrs. Ortiz to forego salaries or their acceptance of "pay-what-you-can" arrangements made medical services affordable and available to many poor residents of Arizona. Thousands of Arizonans owe their health and lives to the caring dedication of this selfless medical team.

Although Dr. Ortiz' family did not have large amounts of money, they encouraged a love of learning and a dedication to community service. With these values instilled in him as a young boy in Puerto Rico, Dr. Ortiz often dreamed of helping underprivileged people when he grew up. In order to pursue his dream of becoming a doctor to aid indigent people, Dr. Ortiz had to leave his much loved family and childhood home to attend medical school in Illinois. Although he was now thousands of miles away, these early dreams and lessons helped guide and inspire him to continue toward his goal.

In the early 1950's, while stationed at Luke Air Force Base in Phoenix, Arizona, Dr. Ortiz took on a Herculean task. He readily agreed to assist Dr. Carlos Greth with a medical practice that served 80,000 Spanish-speaking people in Maricopa County. At this time, they were the only Spanish-speaking doctors in Maricopa County.

Aside from generously offering his medical talents, Dr. Ortiz also became a champion for those that he treated. His political motivation was his need to "stand up and speak out" because he felt "an obligation to do something to . . . remedy those problems" which were regularly encountered by his patients. Dr. Ortiz was especially active on behalf of his farm worker patients. He was instrumental in obtaining an Arizona state ban on the short handled hoe, as well as improving the Arizona laws regulating pesticides and field sanitation. Dr. Ortiz' commitment and accomplishments make him an outstanding role model for the citizen activist. He identified the problems that needed to be addressed, sought logical, humane remedies for them, and consistently persuaded political decision makers to agree to the solutions.

Dr. and Mrs. Ortiz not only emphasized preventive health care, they organized mobile clinics and community health boards to ensure that this message would be heard and spread throughout many Arizona communities. In 1972, Dr. Ortiz joined the University of Arizona Rural Health Office as the Medical Director. Currently, he continues as the Medical Director of the Rural Health Office while maintaining his rural mobile clinic practice in three commu-

nities. During his tenure, he has worked tirelessly to encourage the poor and minorities to enter and to succeed in healthcare professions, while continually working to develop and deliver better health services for those in need.

Throughout his career, Dr. Ortiz has received many honors and awards, including: The Arizona Latin-American Medical Association Award; the Arizona Family Doctor of the Year Award; Distinguished Leadership Award, American Rural Health Association (national); and the Jefferson Award for Outstanding Service to the Community, Institute for Public Service (national).

Dr. Ortiz and Martha deserve the nation's gratitude and respect for the magnitude of the service they have given for such an extended period of time. I ask my colleagues in Congress to join me in applauding and honoring this noble doctor, Dr. Augusto Ortiz, and his admirable wife, Martha Ortiz.

AMERICAN LAND SOVEREIGNTY PROTECTION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. WALLY HERGER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 20, 1999

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 883) to preserve the sovereignty of the United States over public lands and acquired lands owned by the United States, and to preserve State sovereignty and private property rights in non-Federal lands surrounding those public lands and acquired lands:

Mr. HERGER. Mr. Chairman, I support H.R. 883, The American Land Sovereignty Protection Act and am in favor of its passage. The reason I support this legislation is because it will place constraints on the Clinton/Gore administration's ability to exercise more Federal land control. Mr. Speaker, my main concern is not the United Nations. The United Nations has no more authority than we choose to give it. My major concern, and the concern of the citizens of my northern California District, is the continued use of Presidential powers to exercise Federal land control. This legislation will go a long way in preventing that. Therefore, Mr. Chairman, I urge everyone's support of H.R. 883.

INDIA'S ANTI-AMERICANISM REVEALED AS DEFENSE MINISTER ATTACKS AMERICA

HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 25, 1999

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, I was disturbed to hear that the Defense Minister of India, George Fernandes, led a meeting of some of the world's most repressive regimes at which they agreed that their main goal was to "stop the United States," according to the Indian Express. Fernandes himself called the United States "vulgarly arrogant." This should offend anyone who cares about this country.

Countries represented at this meeting, according to the newspaper, were Communist China—which has been stealing American nuclear secrets and pouring illegal money into our political campaigns, Libya, Russia, Serbia—the country we are currently fighting, Saddam Hussein's Iraq, and Castro's Cuba. Now, Mr. Speaker, I know a bit about Cuba. Castro's dictatorship in Cuba is one of the most brutal in the world. It has killed and tortured thousands of its opponents.

By now, we all know the stories of how the Indian government has killed tens of thousands of Christians, Sikhs, Muslims, Dalit untouchables, and others. Just in recent months, I am informed that an Australian missionary named Graham Staines and his two young sons were burned to death in their Jeep by a militant theocratic Hindu Nationalist gang affiliated with the RSS, which is also, I am told, the parent organization of the ruling BJP. I am informed that there are 17 freedom movements in India and the ongoing political instability there may be bringing India's breakup close. We should support the peaceful struggle for freedom throughout India.

India destabilized South Asia with its nuclear weapons' tests. It was a close ally of the Soviet Union and supported the invasion of Afghanistan. I am told that it has the most anti-American voting record of any country in the United Nations with the exception of Cuba. Why does a government like that continue to receive aid from the United States?

Mr. Speaker, the time has come to stop supporting governments that actively work against us. We should cut off all American aid to India and declare our support for the freedom movements through democratic plebiscites. These are important steps to extend the hand of freedom to the people of South Asia.

INTRODUCTORY STATEMENT FOR THE BRING THEM HOME ALIVE ACT OF 1999

HON. JOEL HEFLEY

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 25, 1999

Mr. HEFLEY. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to introduce today the Bring Them Home Alive Act of 1999. This legislation provides a powerful incentive to persuade foreign nationals to identify and return to the United States any living American POW/MIA who served in the Vietnam or Korean War. I am pleased to be joined in this effort by 28 bipartisan co-sponsors.

The on-going war in Yugoslavia has brought the plight of American POW/MIAs to the forefront of the nation's psyche. We all watched in horror several weeks ago as three captured American servicemen were displayed with visible cuts and bruises on Serbian television. We feared for their lives, their safety and their well-being. It was with great relief that we watched as Staff Sergeants Christopher Stone and Andrew Ramirez and Specialist Steven Gonzales were released, relatively unharmed, from a Serbian prison.

The story of the capture of these three servicemen ended with family reunions and a safe return home to America. However, too many POW/MIAs were not so fortunate. There is the

possibility that soldiers from the Vietnam and Korean Wars are still living as prisoners of war. It is our duty to do all that we can to bring them home.

The Bring Them Home Alive Act would grant asylum in the U.S. to foreign nationals who help return a living American POW/MIA from either the Vietnam War or the Korean War. The bill specifically allows citizens of Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos, China, North Korea, or any of the states of the former Soviet Union who assist in the rescue of an American POW/MIA to be granted asylum. The legislation would also grant asylum to the rescuer's family, including their spouse and children, since their safety would most likely be threatened by such a rescue.

While there is some doubt as to whether any American POW/MIAs from these two wars remain alive, the official U.S. policy distinctly recognizes the possibility that American POW/MIAs from the Vietnam War could still be alive and held captive in Indochina. The official position of the Defense Department states, "Although we have thus far been unable to prove that Americans are still being held against their will, the information available to us precludes ruling out that possibility. Actions to investigate live-sighting reports receive and will continue to receive necessary priority and resources based on the assumption that at least some Americans are still help captive. Should any report prove true, we will take appropriate action to ensure the return of those involved." The Bring Them Home Alive Act supports this official position and provides for the possibility of bringing any surviving U.S. servicemen home alive.

In order to inform foreign nationals of this offer, the bill calls on the International Broadcasting Bureau to draw upon its resources, such as WORLDNET Television and its Internet sites, to broadcast information that promotes the Bring Them Home Alive asylum program. Similarly, the bill calls on Radio Free Europe and Radio Free Asia to broadcast information.

Mr. Speaker, we are less than two weeks away from celebrating Memorial Day. This holiday is an opportunity for us, as a nation, to honor the soldiers and veterans who so valiantly served and protected our nation and our freedoms. American servicemen and women deserve this recognition, as well as our respect and appreciation. I believe it would be a fitting tribute to American soldiers to pass the Bring Them Home Alive Act. As long as there remains even the remotest possibility that there may be American survivors, we owe it to our servicemen and their families to bring them home alive.

HUNGER'S SILENT VICTIMS

HON. TONY P. HALL

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 25, 1999

Mr. HALL of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring to our colleagues' attention a humanitarian crisis in Asia, one half a world away from the glare of television lights and public concern—but one every bit as worthy of our attentions as the crime scene that is Kosovo.

I recently visited rural villages in Cambodia, and was surprised to see that Pol Pot's leg-

acies—serious malnutrition and illiteracy—persist two decades after he was run from power. I am especially concerned that our country is focusing too much on political issues, and ignoring the tremendous humanitarian problems in Cambodia.

One aspect of these problems—hunger and malnutrition so severe that it is stunting the bodies and brains of more than half of Cambodia's children—was explained in a superb article recently in Time Magazine's Asian edition. We all know the tragic of Cambodia; this article describes a future sure to be needlessly sad.

Cambodia is a fertile land at the crossroads of a thriving regional economy. Its people are hard-working and innovative. With a little peace, and a little humanitarian assistance, they can again be the stable, growing rice exporter they were in the 1960s.

I would respectfully request that Time's article, and my own statement on the situation, be included in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

[From Time Asia, May 17, 1999]

HUNGER'S SILENT VICTIMS

(By Nisid Hajari)

Cambodia is accustomed to the thunder of artillery, to death tolls thickened by war and disease. The quiet of peace, however, has begun to allow more subtle killers a hearing. The latest crisis: food security, or its shameful absence among the country's malnourished poor.

The problem is hardly new, only newly appreciated. Earlier this year a joint survey published by UNICEF and the United Nations World Food Program (WFP) found that in Cambodia's poorest rural areas, nearly half the children under age five are physically stunted, while 20% suffer acute malnutrition.

According to a separate U.N. study published last December, Cambodia has the highest malnutrition rates in East Asia, with an average daily intake of only 1,980 calories, even lower than that of famine-stricken North Korea (2,390 calories) "Malnutrition in Cambodia is chronic," says the WFP's acting country director, Ken Noah Davies. "You could call this a silent emergency, or you could call this a national crisis."

The scope of the problem bears out that dire warning. Although hunger is especially acute in the countryside, even Cambodia's relatively affluent urban population suffers disturbingly high rates of malnutrition. The most recent data released by the Ministry of Health reveal that in 1996, nearly 34% of children below the age of five in this upper income group were moderately underweight and 21% severely stunted. The results suggest that not only income, but also socio-cultural factors may contribute to the underfeeding of children. For traditional cultural reasons—breastfeeding from birth is seen as taboo—Cambodian women are often reluctant to suckle their newborns immediately, waiting several days and thereby depriving infants of highly nutritious colostrum, or first milk.

Much of the difficulty in feeding kids properly stems from the devastation wrought by the Khmer Rouge. Pol Pot's mad attempt at transforming the country into a vast agrarian commune destroyed its irrigation system, which had made Cambodia a net rice exporter in the 1960s.

Since most farmers no longer hold formal title to their land—eliminated at the time, along with private property—their fields are vulnerable to takeover by soldiers and local thugs. And the sundering of countless families has disrupted the passage of traditional

knowledge from mother to daughter. In some outlying districts, many women have 10 or more children; some are either unaware of birth control techniques or unable to afford condoms. "Nobody comes to explain to them about health care," says Kao Chheng Huor, head of the WFP office for the provinces of Kampong Thom and Preah Vihear.

But in Kampong Thom, which according to the joint UNICEF/WFP survey suffers the highest rates of child malnutrition in the country, it quickly becomes apparent that the heart of the problem is mind numbing poverty. "I had no choice, I had no other way except to send my children away," says Hol Ny, her eyes wet with tears. The 40-year-old widow, bereft of land or cattle, recently allowed three of her six children to go work for other families, some of them total strangers; the \$15 she received per child must feed her and her three youngest for the next year. In her village of Srayou Cheung, at least six other families have similarly sold their children into bonded labor; some say they have had to forage in the forest for food. Hol Ny's neighbor, a 41-year-old divorcee named Pich Mom, sold her two sons for two years each. "I was sick and couldn't earn any money," she says. "It's hard for me to live without my children, but I think I did what was best for them."

For the past four years, Cambodia has actually recorded a small rice surplus estimated to reach 30,000 tons this year. This bounty, however, is distributed poorly, and many farmers simply cannot afford to buy what is available. (In a country with a per capita income of only \$300 a year, about 36% of Cambodians live below the official poverty line; last year the WFP assisted 1.4 million people, 15% of the population, with its food-for-work program.) Even those who have rice often have little else—perhaps a little salt, or the fermented fish paste called "prahoc"—to round out the dish. That little is not nearly enough: rice, while high in calories, has relatively few nutrients.

The WFP says Prime Minister Hum Sen was shocked by the U.N. surveys, and he now insists that eliminating malnutrition is a top priority. "Now that the fighting is over, we expect everyone to work on this issue," says Nouv Kanun, the energetic secretary general of the newly created Council for Agriculture and Rural Development.

A conference of Cabinet ministers and provincial authorities last month endorsed a 10-year, \$90 million plan to tackle the root causes of malnutrition, focusing on crop diversification and awareness campaigns about nutrition, health and hygiene. Still, the damage that is already evident will plague Cambodia for years to come. "If you are malnourished from six months until you are five, you are going to be handicapped for the rest of your life," warns Davies. "You will never be able to develop your full mental or physical capacity." Perhaps now that warning can be heard.

POL POT'S LEGACIES—ILLITERACY AND MALNUTRITION—HAVE NOT YET FOLLOVED DESPOT TO THE GRAVE

WASHINGTON.—U.S. Rep. Tony Hall, D-Ohio, today detailed his impressions of humanitarian conditions in Cambodia and warned that problems of desperate poverty—especially severe malnutrition, scarce schools, and wide swaths of mined land—are undermining the victory over those responsible for the death of nearly two million Cambodians. Excerpts of Hall's remarks follow.

"I visited Cambodia's capital and two rural provinces April 8-11 to get a firsthand look at the problems of poverty, and particularly the terrible malnutrition that has left Cam-

bodia's rural villages populated by stunted people—and one in 10 wasted by hunger.

"What I saw in Cambodia's rural villages reminded me of the time I spent in Thailand 32 years ago as a Peace Corps volunteer. People in Cambodia seem to be frozen in time, and you cannot escape the nagging feeling that Pol Pot and the Khmer Rouge have won, that they took the people backward in time and stranded them there.

"I was surprised to learn that in Cambodia, malnutrition is not the result of a lack of food. It is caused by the failure to teach mothers that they don't have to wait three days after giving birth to breastfeed the baby; that children should be fed more than just rice; that fish or fruit or vegetables won't make toddlers sick; and that without basic sanitation, disease will undo all the good of proper nutrition and care.

"People need more traditional education too—four in five rural Cambodians can't read or write, and just 20-30 percent of children are in school. That means they can't take advantage of their position at a crossroads of the regional economy. And education is only the beginning of Cambodia's problems.

"Without roads, it is impossible for rural people, who are 85% of the population, to get their products to market. Without irrigation, most can only raise enough food to keep their families alive. With even a few more roads and water systems, Cambodia could feed itself and earn enough to fund some progress.

"Malaria, TB, dengue fever, and the growing rate of AIDS infections need to be fought more seriously. It is appalling that Cambodian children still die from measles and other easily prevented illnesses. Even the most basic things, such as iodizing salt to prevent mental retardation, are not being done.

"The country desperately needs economic growth. The government's plan to demobilize 55,000 soldiers and 23,000 police will put a lot of young men with guns into a society that is very fragile. Aid cannot create an economy, and I hope the government will invest the money it now spends on the military on improving its people's opportunities.

"Cambodia's people need peace—and a period to find their way forward after 30 years of civil war. It is hard to imagine the trauma of the generation that endured the 'killing fields,' or their children—who now are raising children of their own. One aid worker told me that the pictures children draw almost always feature guns or weapons—because violence and war are so familiar to them.

"For peace to last, it will take more than the trial of war criminals. Two decades have passed since the Khmer Rouge were run out of power, but Cambodians remain among the poorest people in the world. It is in their lack of education that you can see that, even though Pol Pot's military is defeated, he achieved his hideous goal of turning Cambodia into a primitive place.

"After the mid-1997 coup, the United States cut its funding for private charities working inside Cambodia—from \$35 million to \$12 million. That is unacceptably low, given the election last year, and it is only hurting poor Cambodians who already have suffered unimaginably. Whatever Congress and the Administration think of Cambodia's government, we need to find a way to help its poor, and I intend to press the United Nations, the United States, and other countries to do that.

"The overwhelming majority of Cambodians, whose lifespan is just 47 years, don't know what peace is. If the areas long held by the Khmer Rouge aren't opened with roads and other basic infrastructure, if the people do not have an opportunity to get some basic

education—if ordinary Cambodians don't see progress in meeting their basic needs, the peace that is holding now may not last.

"We have an opportunity today that has not existed in three decades, a chance to introduce Cambodians to the fruits of peace. The international community should make the most of this chance by investing in Cambodians and their future—and the United States should lead the way."

INTRODUCTION OF HOME HEALTH ACCESS PRESERVATION ACT

HON. VAN HILLEARY

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 25, 1999

Mr. HILLEARY. Mr. Speaker, the Balanced Budget Act (BBA) made many changes to Medicare and the home health industry. These changes decimated the system and have left behind them a long list of closed home health agencies and patients without care. In response, many of us in Congress desperately sought a solution. Unfortunately, we were unable to come up with one true vehicle that could pass into law.

This year we come back again. Our efforts will be just as aggressive but a little wiser. Instead of competing against one another, we in Congress will now work together to fix the problem. That is why I have joined with Congressmen MCGOVERN, COBURN, and WEYGAND to craft legislation that will help our seniors in need. Joined by Congressmen RAHALL, MCINTOSH, HOOLEY, WAMP, BARTON, and ACKERMAN, we plan to push forward legislation that aims to help the neediest of home health beneficiaries and agencies.

The first patients that will receive the aid are those that are considered "outliers." Outliers are patients who have unusually high cost maladies. Under the BBA system, many agencies are unable to give them care at the risk of being run out of business because they are so cost prohibitive. We create a system that sets aside 10 specific ailments that would make a person eligible to receive this outlier status. Once they are identified as an outlier, agencies who take these individuals could draw from a newly established \$250,000,000 Medicare fund to cover the added expenses. This will mean more of our poorest, oldest, and sickest receiving the medical coverage they so desperately need.

Another benefit of this legislation will be the establishment of a repayment plan for agencies who have been treating these individuals. Many of them are now almost out of business due to their charity and the inaccuracies of the Health Care Financing Administration (HCFA) in assessing their plight. We offer an interest-free 36-month grace period to these agencies in order to repay these overpayments and settle any miscalculations on behalf of HCFA.

I urge all other Members who see the need for a reform in home health to back this legislation. The Home Health Access Preservation Act of 1999 is a common sense way to help our seniors in their time of need.

INTRODUCTION OF THE CRIMINAL
WELFARE PREVENTION ACT,
PART II AND THE CRIMINAL
WELFARE PREVENTION ACT,
PART III

HON. WALLY HERGER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 25, 1999

Mr. HERGER. Mr. Speaker, today, I join with a bipartisan coalition of original cosponsors to re-introduce two important pieces of legislation—The Criminal Welfare Prevention Act, Part II and The Criminal Welfare Prevention Act, Part III—which will help prevent the needless waste of taxpayer dollars.

Because of the original Criminal Welfare Prevention Act—legislation I introduced during the 104th Congress which was enacted as part of welfare reform in 1996—an effective new incentive system is now in place that enables the Social Security Administration (SSA) to detect and cut off fraudulent Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and Social Security (OASDI) benefits that would otherwise be issued to prisoners. That provision established monetary incentives for state and local law enforcement authorities to enter into voluntary data-sharing contracts with SSA. Now, participating local authorities can elect to provide the Social Security numbers of their inmates to the Social Security Administration. If SSA identifies any “matches”—instances where inmates are fraudulently collecting SSI benefits—SSA now cuts off payment of as much as \$400. Participation in these data-sharing contracts is strictly voluntary; they do not involve any unfunded federal mandates. According to an estimate by SSA’s Inspector General, this initiative could help save taxpayers as much as \$3.46 billion through the year 2001.

While we should certainly be proud of this achievement Mr. Speaker, our work in this area is far from finished. During the 105th Congress, the House passed by follow-up legislation, The Criminal Welfare Prevention Act, Part II (H.R. 530), as part of The Ticket to Work and Self-Sufficiency Act (H.R. 3433). This proposal would encourage even more sheriffs to become involved in fraud-prevention by extending the \$400 incentive payments to intercepted Social Security (OASDI) checks as well. Regrettably, this proposal was not taken up by the Senate. For this reason, I am re-introducing The Criminal Welfare Prevention Act, Part II today, and will continue to push for the enactment of this important initiative.

At the same time, I will also be working to enact a somewhat broader proposal. The Criminal Welfare Prevention Act, Part III, which I first introduced during the 105th Congress as H.R. 4172. This legislation would simply require SSA to share its prisoner database with other federal departments and agencies—such as the Departments of Agriculture, Education, Labor, and Veterans’ Affairs—to help prevent the continued payment of other fraudulent benefits to prisoners. While we do not have reliable information about how many prisoners are receiving food stamps, education aid, and VA benefits for which they are ineligible, it is likely that many do. SSA’s prisoner database provides us with the perfect tool to help identify and terminate inappropriate benefits issued through other federal and federally-assisted spending programs.

While SSA already has the authority to share its prisoner database with other agencies under a provision of the original Criminal Welfare Prevention Act—and while President Clinton has issued an executive memorandum ordering the SSA to do so—I believe it is important for Congress to codify this requirement into law. Because fraud prevention has not historically been a top priority at SSA, Congress should act swiftly to ensure that we permanently stamp out inmate fraud in all its forms. After all, taxpayers already pay for inmates’ food, clothing, and shelter. It is simply outrageous that prisoners may be receiving fraudulent “bonus” checks each month as well.

Mr. Speaker, I would urge all of my colleagues—on both sides of the aisle—to cosponsor both of these important pieces of legislation. I hope that Congress will not promptly on these proposals to help remind inmates that crime isn’t supposed to pay.

THE MAILBOX PRIVACY
PROTECTION ACT

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 25, 1999

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce H.J. Res. 55, the Mailbox Privacy Protection Act, a joint resolution disapproving a Postal Service Regulation which tramples on the privacy of the two million Americans who rent mailboxes from Commercial Mail Receiving Agencies. Under this regulation, any American currently renting, or planning to rent, a commercial mailbox will have to provide the receiving agency with personal information, including two items of valid identification, one of which must contain a photograph of the applicant and one of which must contain a “serial number—traceable to the bearer.” Of course, in most cases that number will be today’s de facto national ID number—the Social Security number.

The receiving agency must then send the information to the Post Office, which will maintain the information in a database. Furthermore, the Post Office authorizes the Commercial Mail Receiving Agencies to collect and maintain photocopies of the forms of identification presented by the box renter. My colleagues might be interested to know that the Post Office is prohibited from doing this by the Privacy Act of 1974. I hope my colleagues are as outraged as I am by the Post Office’s mandating that their competitors do what Congress has forbidden the Post Office to do directly.

Thanks to the Post Office’s Federal Government-granted monopoly on first-class delivery service, Americans cannot receive mail without dealing with the Postal Service. Therefore, this regulation presents Americans who wish to receive mail at a Commercial Mail Receiving Agency with a choice: either provide the federal government with your name, address, photograph and social security number, or surrender the right to receive communications from one’s fellow citizens in one’s preferred manner.

This regulation, ironically, was issued at the same time the Post Office was issuing a stamp honoring Ayn Rand, one of the twentieth century’s greatest champions of liberty.

Another irony connected to this regulation is that it comes at a time when the Post Office is getting into an ever increasing number of enterprises not directly related to mail delivery. So, while the Postal Service uses its monopoly on first-class mail to compete with the private sector, it works to make life more difficult for its competitors in the field of mail delivery.

This regulation also provides the Post Office with a list of all those consumers who have opted out of the Post Office’s mailbox service. Mr. Speaker, what business in America would not leap at the chance to get a list of their competitor’s customer names, addresses, social security numbers, and photographs? The Post Office could even mail advertisements to those who use private mail boxes explaining how their privacy would not be invaded if they used a government box.

Coincidentally, this regulation will also raise the operating cost on the Post Office’s private competitors for private mailbox services. Some who have examined this bill estimate that it could impose costs as high as \$1 billion on these small businesses during the initial six-month compliance period. The long-term costs of this rule are incalculable, but could conceivably reach several billion dollars in the first few years. This may force some of these businesses into bankruptcy.

During the rule’s comment period, more than 8,000 people formally denounced the rule, while only 10 spoke generally favor of it. However, those supporting this rule will claim that the privacy of the majority of law-abiding citizens who use commercial mailboxes must be sacrificed in order to crack down on those using commercial mailboxes for criminal activities. However, I would once again remind my colleagues that the Federal role in crime, even if the crime is committed in “interstate commerce,” is a limited one. The fact that some people may use a mailbox to commit a crime does not give the Federal Government the right to treat every user of a commercial mailbox as a criminal. Moreover, my office has received a significant number of calls from battered women who use these boxes to maintain their geographic privacy.

I have introduced this joint resolution in hopes that it will be considered under the expedited procedures established in the Contract with America Advancement Act of 1996. This procedure allows Congress to overturn onerous regulations such as the subject of this bill. Mr. Speaker, the entire point of this procedure to provide Congress with a means to stop federal actions which pose an immediate threat to the rights of Americans. Thanks to these agency review provisions, Congress cannot hide and blame these actions on the bureaucracy. I challenge my colleagues to take full advantage of this process and use it to stop this outrageous rule.

In conclusion Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in cosponsoring the Mailbox Privacy Protection Act, which uses the Agency Review Procedures of the Contract with America Advancement Act to overturn Post Office’s regulations requiring customers of private mailboxes to give the Post Office their name, address, photographs and social security number. The Federal Government should not force any American citizen to divulge personal information as the price for receiving mail. I further call on all my colleagues to assist me in moving this bill under the expedited procure established under the Congressional Review Act.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE CITY
OF LEBANON ON ITS SESQUI-
CENTENNIAL BIRTHDAY

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 25, 1999

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, let me take this opportunity to congratulate the City of Lebanon and Laclede County on its Sesqui-centennial birthday.

Through the 1830's and 1840's pioneers chiefly from North Carolina, Tennessee, and Kentucky filtered in to fertile little valleys along streams and creeks in an Laclede County, Missouri. These settlers were farmers with only the bare necessities, and few tools, who relied upon their energy, efficiency and resourcefulness to overcome deficiencies.

In 1849 Laclede County was organized out of three neighboring counties, Pulaski, Wright, and Camden. A donation of 50 acres of land by Berry Harrison and James Appling established the county seat on what is now Old Town hill. A courthouse, jail, general store, and various office buildings were eventually added to this beautiful setting.

The county changed with the arrival of the Frisco railroad. The railroad was established three quarters of a mile out on the muddy prairie, which caused the railroad to be located a quarter of a mile outside of the town. Businesses eventually moved toward the railroad and in a couple of years a new business center grew up and Old Town became simply the first ward of new Lebanon. Small towns grew up and along the railroad each taking its quota of trade that the first years had given to Lebanon.

After 150 years Laclede County can boast of prosperous farms, schools within the reach of every child, churches for every community, and prosperity over the entire county.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to extend my congratulations to the residents of the city of Lebanon and Laclede County. It is with great pride that I honor their achievements on their Sesqui-centennial birthday.

CRISIS IN KOSOVO (ITEM NO. 5),
REMARKS BY DAVID SWARTZ,
FORMER AMBASSADOR TO
BELARUS

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 25, 1999

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, on May 6, 1999, I joined with Representative JOHN CONYERS, Representative PETE STARK, and Representative CYNTHIA MCKINNEY to host the third in a series of Congressional Teach-In sessions on the Crisis in Kosovo. If a peaceful resolution to this conflict is to be found in the coming weeks, it is essential that we cultivate a consciousness of peace and actively search for creative solutions. We must construct a foundation for peace through negotiation, mediation, and diplomacy.

Part of the dynamic of peace is a willingness to engage in meaningful dialogue, to listen to one another openly and to share our views in a constructive manner. I hope that

these Teach-In sessions will contribute to this process by providing a forum for Members of Congress and the public to explore alternatives to the bombing and options for a peaceful resolution. We will hear from a variety of speakers of different sides of the Kosovo situation. I will be introducing into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD transcripts of their remarks and essays that shed light on the many dimensions of the crisis.

This presentation is by David Swartz, former Ambassador to Belarus. He is a retired foreign service officer and Director of the International Institute of the U.S. Department of Agriculture Graduate School. His other foreign-service posts included Rotterdam, London, Moscow, Kiev, Zurich, Calgary and Warsaw. He is the author of "Redirecting the CIA: Keep Agency Out of Policymaking, Make Ambassador Boss Overseas" (Foreign Service Journal, February 1996).

Ambassador Swartz explains how United States policy in Bosnia contributed to NATO's current dilemma in Kosovo. He also states a clear position on a central question: Does the United States have an overriding national interest in the resolution of strife in the Balkans? Ambassador Swartz's comments may be controversial to some, but they represent a valuable contribution to our ongoing debate.***HD***Presentation by David Swartz to Congressional Teach-In On Kosovo

I think my role today is going to be controversial. And if ever there was a conflict that was controversial this one certainly is. So I'm pleased to be here. Some of what I'm going to say is going to offend some people and possibly some of it will offend everybody, I don't know. But at least it may serve as a catalyst to help get the discussion going as we move along. But I am being deliberately provocative in some places so I warn you in advance and ask your indulgence.

I do wish to express my thanks for the opportunity to present my statement this afternoon on U.S.-Kosovo policy. My statement, while critical, is non-partisan. It reflects the general reality, in my view at least, that U.S. policies in the Balkans over the past eight years have reflected bipartisanship, just as criticisms of Administration policy, particularly with regard to the Yugoslavia war, have also tended to be bipartisan.

The two key desiderata driving my views on U.S. actions in that region and in the Kosovo region are these: First, human suffering must be minimized. And that's way ahead of any other. But the second one is: clear U.S. national interests justifying involvement must be present. Our policies in my view reflect deficiencies on both counts. I will very briefly touch on three aspects of that problem. One, how we got to where we are. Two, why current policy is wrong. And three, what next. Three is perhaps being developed as well speak.

First, how we got where we are. American involvement in the post-communist Balkan turmoil stems in large part in my view from a questionable policy of premature diplomatic recognition of groups asserting sovereignty, particularly Bosnia, in the early 1990's. Some groupings in the then-Yugoslavia could genuinely be considered ripe for independence, most especially Croatia, and Slovenia, possibly to a lesser extent Macedonia. Bosnia, however, could by no reasonable standard be considered a nation-state.

What is Bosnia? Who are Bosnians? What is their history, language, literature, religion? What can we point to that is uniquely Bosnian? It seems to me that creation of a multi-ethnic state is complicated under the best of circumstances, and Bosnia in the early 90's was not the best of circumstances. At a minimum, a la Switzerland, the disparate groups must have a common desire to join together in some higher level of governance than just the individual groupings they find themselves in. So in Bosnia a so-called country was cobbled together and we know the result: ethnic cleansing, massacres, artificiality imposed at Dayton, and peace maintained solely through the possibly permanent presence of armed forces of external powers. Far from fostering stability in the former Yugoslavia, I would argue that the Bosnia so-called settlement has served to institutionalize instability. If U.S. involvement in Bosnia was the proximate cause of our current troubles, highly superficial understanding by our policy makers of the centuries of passions, hatreds, vendettas, indeed genocide throughout the Balkans was a more deep-seated problem. If we knew nothing else, we should have known that there are no good guys in the region, and that therefore aligning ourselves in one or another direction was fraught with danger.

This truism applies equally to our current dilemma in Kosovo. With specific regard to Mr. Milosevic in Kosovo, the United States' misreading of his intentions is nothing short of shocking. If intelligence and diplomatic analysis are good for anything at all, they must serve the critical function of providing policy makers with accurate prognoses of the intentions of adversaries. We can forgive White House ignorance about Milosevic's likely response to a forced dictate over Kosovo, and perhaps even that of our Secretary of State. However, certainly at a minimum, emissary Richard Holbrooke and his well-meaning but judgment-impaired staff, with the hundreds of hours they spent in direct contact with Milosevic, should have been able to discern his intentions, once it became clear to him that the United States' intentions were to carve away his authority in Kosovo. At that point, the nonsensical idea that Milosevic would cave under the threat of bombing should have been discarded once and for all. Tragically, it wasn't.

My second point: Why our policy is wrong. And this brings me back to my two basic desiderata: Minimizing human suffering, and advancing clearly identified U.S. interests. A powerful argument has been made in some circles, an argument that I find somewhat persuasive, perhaps not completely, that the least human suffering in the former Yugoslavia would have resulted from the outside world not involving itself at all in the internal civil strife. Yes, there would have been oppression, yes there would have been killing, but in the end, the argument goes, a level of coexistence would eventually have been reached, no doubt for the moment at least with Serbia in full charge, in which life would have gone on for the masses. Not freedom, perhaps, not autonomy, certainly, but at least basic life. With outside support first for Bosnian independence, a wholly unsustainable proposition over the long run, and then for an imposed Kosovo settlement, even more implausible, great violence resulted, and continues.

What are U.S. interests? I am not persuaded that we have any overriding interests

in the Balkan strife and certainly none that would justify the course of action on which we are embarked. The NATO credibility argument is not persuasive. Had the alliance led by the U.S. not constantly threatened Milosevic with military action if he did not submit himself to NATO's demands, we would not have found ourselves in the put-up-or-shut-up corner. Expansion of the conflict to say, Turkey or Greece, or Turkey and Greece, is equally implausible. Clearly the conflicts are limits to the territory of the former Yugoslavia, and Milosevic's desire to reassert his and Serbia's domination. Support for human rights is indeed a laudable national interest, but as suggested above, our intervention in the region has had the opposite of the desired effect.

Where we do have strong national interests are vis a vis Russia, and there the Kosovo is quite possibly going to result in, if not permanent, at least long-lasting damage to reformist elements in Russian politics on whom we count for achieving societal transformations there. Or alternatively, as now seems quite likely, if Russian involvement in the settlement takes place, that might well lead to a diluted result bearing little resemblance to our stated conditions when we began this war. Or both of those might happen.

My third point: What next? Having embarked on what in my judgment is a foolish and ill-considered air war, it seems to me that the U.S. now has only two options: Stop the bombing, cutting whatever deal the Russians can broker for us, that now seems to be underway, perhaps, or immediately and massively escalate, with the specific twin goals of removing Milosevic and eliminating all Serbian fighting units in Kosovo. The first option is the one I prefer, because as I said at the outset I believe minimizing human suffering must be the goal. Each day of bombing is accompanied by more ethnic cleansing, raping and summary executions of Kosovars. It of course also leads to casualties among Serbia's civilian population. Forty-plus days of bombing have seemingly not stopped Milosevic's evil in Kosovo one whit, indeed, have accelerated it. The cessation of bombing is of course fraught with danger, since it will mean an outcome, no doubt far short of our stated objectives when we began this war, it will mean a resurgent Russia on the world scene, which might not be a bad thing, but that Russia could well be far different from the one we had hoped for, and now a truly credibility-deficient NATO. But we should have thought of those matters earlier, and in the meantime, each day brings more casualties.

I for one have reached my tolerance level of the daily dosage of atrocity stories juxtaposed with confident NATO spokespersons detailing the quote-unquote in the air war the previous night's 600 sorties have resulted in, where clearly the latter has not diminished the former.

The other option is massive force now. I do not advocate this course, but it seems to me the only other viable option. Paratroopers dropped in throughout Kosovo, going after Milosevic himself on the grounds of his long-overdue designation as a wanted war criminal. The other NATO partners will balk, and the U.S. should be ready to act alone, wasting no more time. Yes, this approach will result in still more deaths, and other atrocities among the suffering Kosovars, but at least the end of the agony will be sooner than with our present incomprehensible approach.

In sum, the U.S. should not be engaged in this war in the first place, but since it is, we must either win it quickly, or get out quickly. Otherwise the lives of many, many more innocent people will be on our American conscience.

PREVENTING ABUSE OF THE HOSPITAL PAYMENT SYSTEM: INTRODUCTION OF MEDICARE MODERNIZATION NO. 5

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 25, 1999

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, in the Balanced Budget Act of 1997, Congress provided that for 10 hospital diagnosis related groups (DRG's), we would not pay the full DRG if the patient was discharged to further treatment in a nursing home, home health agency, or to a rehab or long-term-care hospital. I include at the end of my statement the conference report language describing this provision. Note that as originally passed by the House and Senate, it applied to all hospital discharges—not just 10 DRG's.

The administration and the Congress were worried that some hospitals have been gaming the Medicare hospital prospective payment system. They have been discharging patients early to downstream treatment facilities (which they often own), collecting the full DRG payment, and requiring Medicare to pay for longer and more expensive treatments in these downstream facilities.

Many of the nation's hospitals are lobbying for the repeal of this discharge provision—even though repeal would cost Medicare billions of dollars in the years to come. The intensity of the lobbying on this issues shows that early discharge to subsidiaries has become a major strategy of many hospitals. It may have been part of the Columbia/HCA scheme to maximize Medicare revenues.

Mr. Speaker, I think we should return to our earlier decision and apply the policy to all discharges, not just 10 DRG's.

The HHS inspector general has found that hospitals that own nursing homes discharge patients much earlier than average, and the patient then stays in the nursing home longer than average—an extra 8 days (OEI-02-94-00320). The OIG has also found that patients' stays are shorter when they are discharged to a home health agency. With about half the nation's hospitals owning a home health agency, this is another way to double dip.

The bill I am introducing will save Medicare billions of additional dollars in the years to come, and it will remove a temptation to abuse patients by pushing them out of hospitals too soon.

I hope that this legislation—one of a series of bills I am introducing to modernize Medicare and make it more efficient—will be enacted as part of our efforts to save Medicare for the Baby Boom generation.

CERTAIN DISCHARGE TO POST ACUTE CARE
Section 10507 of the House bill and Section
5465 of the Senate amendment

CURRENT LAW

PPS hospitals that move patients to PPS-exempt hospitals and distinct-part hospital units, or skilled nursing facilities are cur-

rently considered to have "discharged" the patient and receive a full DRG payment. Under current law, a "transfer" is defined as moving a patient from one PPS hospital to another PPS hospital. In a transfer case, payment to the first PPS hospital is made on a per diem basis, and the second PPS hospital is paid the full DRG payment.

HOUSE BILL

Defines a "transfer case" to include an individual discharged from a PPS hospital who is: (1) admitted as an inpatient to a hospital or distinct-part hospital unit that is not a PPS hospital for further inpatient hospital services; (2) is admitted to a skilled nursing facility or other extended care facility for extended care services; or (3) receives home health service from a home health agency if such services directly relate to the condition or diagnosis for which the individual received inpatient hospital services, and if such services were provided within an appropriate period, as determined by the Secretary in regulations promulgated no later than September 1, 1998. Under the provision, a PPS hospital that "transferred" a patient would be paid on a per diem basis up to the full DRG payment. The PPS-exempt hospital or other facility would be paid under its own Medicare payment policy.

Effective Date. With respect to transfer from PPS-exempt hospitals and SNFs, applies to discharges occurring on or after October 1, 1997. For home health care, applies to discharges occurring on or after October 1, 1998.

SENATE AMENDMENT

Similar provision, except defines a transfer case as including the case of an individual who, immediately upon discharge from and pursuant to the discharge planning process of a PPS hospital, is admitted to a PPS-exempt hospital, hospital unit, SNF, or other extended care facility. The provision does not include home health services in the definition of a transfer.

CONFERENCE AGREEMENT

The conference agreement would provide that for discharges occurring on or after October 1, 1998, those that fall within a specified group of 10 DRGs would be treated as a transfer for payment purposes. The Secretary would be given the authority to select the 10 DRGs focusing on those with high volume and high post acute care. The provision would apply to patients transferred from a PPS hospital to a PPS-exempt hospital or unit, SNF, discharges with subsequent home health care provided within an appropriate period (as defined by the Secretary), and for discharges occurring on or after October 1, 2000, the Secretary may propose to include additional post discharge settings and DRGs to the transfer policy.

Payments to PPS hospitals would be fully or partially based on Medicare's current payment policies applicable to patients transferred from one PPS hospital to another PPS hospital (per diem rates). The Secretary would determine whether the full transfer policy or a blended payment rate (50% of the transfer per diem payment and 50% of the total DRG payment) would apply based on the distribution of marginal costs across days, so that if a substantial portion of the costs of a case are incurred in the early days of a hospital stay the payment would reflect these costs. For FY 2001, the Secretary would be required to publish a proposed rule which included a description of the effect of the transfer policy. The Secretary would be authorized to include in the proposed rule and final rule for FY 2001 or a subsequent fiscal year, a description of additional post-discharge services that would result in a qualified discharge and diagnosis-related groups

specified by the Secretary in addition to the 10 diagnosis-related groups originally selected under this policy.

The Conferees are concerned that Medicare may in some cases be overpaying hospitals for patients who are transferred to a post acute care setting after a very short acute care hospital stay. The Conferees believe that Medicare's payment system should continue to provide hospitals with strong incentives to treat patients in the most effective and efficient manner, while at the same time, adjust PPS payments in a manner that accounts for reduced hospital lengths of stay because of a discharge to another setting.

The Conferees expect that the application of the Transfer policy to 10 high volume/high post-acute use DRGs will provide extensive data to examine hospital behavioral effects under the new transfer policy

THE CRA SUNSHINE ACT OF 1999

HON. BILL McCOLLUM

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 25, 1999

Mr. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to introduce the CRA Sunshine Act of 1999. This is a modest effort to reform the Community Reinvestment Act (CRA) and bring more openness to it.

CRA groups have reported over \$9 billion in cash payments received or pledged by banks as a result of CRA activities. A total of \$694 billion in CRA commitments have been made or pledged due to CRA. While these pledges are made and collected as a direct result of federal legislation, the details of these payments are often unknown because many agreements include confidentiality clauses. Congress never intended that CRA dollars be used for anything other than investing in low and moderate income areas. There is concern that some CRA dollars are being used by CRA activists to pay for consulting fees, hiring contracts, administrative fees, and other nonloan activities. By shining light on the details of agreements made pursuant to CRA, this Act would remove the mystery from deals between banks and CRA organizations while ensuring that CRA truly benefits those that it was designed to benefit.

I encourage my colleagues to join me in supporting this important legislation.

INTRODUCTION OF THE BANKING PRIVACY ACT

HON. JAY INSLEE

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 25, 1999

Mr. INSLEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, with many of my colleagues, to introduce the Banking Privacy Act. We recognize the threat to consumer privacy and want to return control over an individual's personal financial information back to the consumer.

My constituents are shocked when I tell them that their banking transaction experiences are not private. With certain exceptions, financial institutions may legally share all of the information about you and your bank account activity with affiliated businesses—or anyone else, for that matter. This shared infor-

mation includes the amount of each check that you write, to whom each check is written, the date of each check, the amount and date of any deposits into your account, and any "outside information" available, such as information submitted on your initial application for an account. Under existing law, financial institutions are not obligated to honor your request to restrict the dissemination of this personal information.

I became interested in banking privacy laws after reading a letter from a constituent who was upset about his bank's plans to share his private financial records. I was shocked to learn of the stunning absence of statutory protections of consumer privacy. Suppose banks, insurance companies, and securities firms become affiliated, something that will occur more frequently in the future. Will a bank tip off affiliated stock brokers every time their consumers have a sudden increase in their bank account balance, causing the consumer to be subjected to even more telemarketing calls? Will banks "profile" their customers after reviewing their financial information, then have affiliates telemarket products to those customers? Will life insurance companies affiliated with banks review personal checking records for indications of risky behavior, then increase rates based on that information? Under current law, there is nothing to prevent these types of situations.

As Congress moves to modernize the financial services industry and allow the lines between banks, securities firms, and insurance companies to blur, financial institutions gain a new profit incentive by sharing customers' personal financial information. Customers who prefer to keep their financial information private have no recourse.

The Banking Privacy Act is a first step to return control over an individual's personal financial information back to that consumers. The Act applies to federally insured depository institutions, their affiliates and financial institutions covered under the Bank Holding Company Act.

Currently, under the Fair Credit Reporting Act, banks must disclose to their customers their privacy policies to customers and make allowances to opt-out of certain types of information sharing practices. Specifically excluded from this law is customer "transaction and experience" information.

Transaction and experience information is information about a checking or savings account, information contained on an account application, or even purchasing patterns deduced through a customer's checking account—"account profiling." Transaction and experience information may be shared with affiliated companies or even sold to third parties for marketing purposes. There is no law to prevent such activity from taking place.

The information is currently used to market financial services to customers based on their financial patterns. Banks routinely perform this type of information sharing. However, as we move to modernize the financial industry, there will be greater demand for this type of personal account information to market products and services to a targeted group of consumers.

For example, it is not impossible to imagine that a bank holding company learned that a customer received a life insurance settlement and then made that information available to a securities firm or data broker to market serv-

ices to that customer. While many consumers will appreciate the benefit of this information sharing, the decision to share the information belongs in the hands of the consumer and not the financial institution.

Customers should be able to opt-out of information sharing policies in their banks and financial institutions. The Banking Privacy Act will require banks and financial institutions to disclose their privacy policies and allow consumers to opt-out of information sharing plans—including transaction and experience information.

The Banking Privacy Act will not affect the routine operations of a bank. There are specific exemptions in the bill relating to the day to day practices that banks have in place which do not impact consumer privacy. The bill will protect consumers from unwanted marketing based on their intimate financial details and give consumers control over the use and sharing of their financial information.

Federally insured depository institutions have an obligation to help take a stand for consumer privacy. The government provides a safety net for the banks in the form of insurance and safety provisions. These same banks have to provide a safety net for taxpayer privacy.

Financial privacy should not be sacrificed at the altar of financial industry modernization. Americans have the right to freedom of speech and freedom of religion, and we ought to have the right to freedom from prying eyes into our personal financial business. Financial institutions should not be allowed to share private financial information without customer consent. The Banking Privacy Act is a necessary and practical response to the erosion of financial privacy and the potential explosion in cross-marketing among affiliated financial institutions.

I want to also thank and commend my colleagues for joining me as cosponsors of the Banking Privacy Act. Representatives MICHAEL CAPUANO, BOB FILNER, MAURICE HINCHEY, JOSEPH HOFFEL, PAUL KANJORSKI, BARBARA LEE, JIM McDERMOTT, LYNN RIVERS, BERNIE SANDERS, JAN SCHAKOWSKY and PETE STARK have all cosponsored this bill and I appreciate their assistance.

I urge my colleagues to support and pass the Banking Privacy Act.

IN MEMORY OF PAUL N. DOLL

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 25, 1999

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, it is with deep sadness that I inform the House of the death of Paul N. Doll of Jefferson City, Missouri.

Paul Doll was born on April 4, 1911, in Hamilton, Missouri, a son of Ernest E. and Emma Louise Colby Doll. He was a 1928 graduate of Hamilton High School and a 1932 graduate of Kidder Junior College. He received a bachelor's degree in 1936 and a master's degree in 1937 in agricultural engineering from their University of Missouri-Columbia. In 1984, he received an honorary doctorate from the University of Missouri.

Doll's career in public service and agriculture began immediately after his graduation in 1937. He was a county extension agent

with the University of Missouri Extension Service for several counties from 1937 to 1944. A resident of the Jefferson City area since 1944, he was employed with the Missouri Department of Resources and Development from 1944 to 1947. He was manager of the Missouri Limestone Producers Association from 1947 to 1954. From 1954 until his retirement in 1976, he was executive director of the Missouri Society of Professional Engineers.

Paul Doll was also active in the community. He was an elder of the First Presbyterian Church, treasurer of the Presbyterian Synod and president of the Men of the Presbyterian Synod. He was past president of the Jefferson City Rotary Club and a district governor of Rotary International. He was a member of Alpha Gamma Rho and Tau Beta Pi fraternities. Active in many University of Missouri organizations, Paul Doll was a board member and past officer of the Agricultural Engineering Council and a board member of the Engineering Advisory Council and the Alumni Alliance. A member of the Alumni association, he received its Distinguished Service Award in 1979. He also was a registered lobbyist for MU.

Mr. Doll was an Eagle Scout and merit badge counselor for the Boy Scouts of America; board member and committee chairman of the Jefferson City Engineers Club; board member of the Central Missouri United Way; volunteer for Meals on Wheels; chairman of the Greater Jefferson City Committee; and a registered engineer in Missouri.

Paul Doll is survived by his wife, Mary R. "Meg" Doll; his son, Robert; two daughters, Mary Beth Huser and Anne C. Comfort; and eight grandchildren. I know that this body joins me in expressing sympathy to the family of this great Missourian.

IN MEMORY OF MR. OSCAR CROSS
OF PADUCAH, KENTUCKY

HON. ED WHITFIELD

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 25, 1999

Mr. WHITFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in tribute to the life and legacy of Mr. Oscar Cross of Paducah, Kentucky, whose passing on April 20, 1999 at the age of 92 ended his long and productive investment in great causes, high ideals and humanitarian service.

Mr. Cross was not a man of material wealth. Undeterred, he built a legacy of leadership built on the wisdom of one of his favorite adages: "If you don't have money, you have time." He gave unstintingly of his time, his energy and his vision of a better community in which none were left behind.

Mr. Cross was a founder of the Paducah Boys & Girls Club that now bears his name. He was a tireless advocate of young people and helped provide a sheltering hand for generations of boys and girls who found protection, love, guidance and inspiration as the result of his efforts.

In a front-page account of his funeral service, The Paducah Sun observed, "On the day that had been declared Oscar Cross Day by

the city of Paducah to commemorate his legacy, hundreds of mourners turned out to pay their last respects to one of the city's greatest humanitarians. Nearly 500 people gathered at First Baptist Church Sunday afternoon for the funeral of the legendary humanitarian. Both blacks and whites filled the church to celebrate, not mourn the life and contributions Cross made."

Dhomyric Lightfoot, president of the Boys and Girls Club, was quoted as saying, "Having people of different colors, cultures and backgrounds here to celebrate (his life) is a contribution to Mr. Cross. The perceptions that he broke were astronomical."

In a fitting eulogy, Reverend Raynaldo Henderson, pastor of the Washington Street Missionary Baptist Church, used a parable to illustrate Mr. Cross's faith in young people and in God. "Whoever gets the Son, gets it All! Do you want peace? Get the Son! Do you want joy? Get the Son! Whoever gets the Son, gets it all!" he said.

Mr. Speaker, in further tribute to his remarkable life, I place before the House of Representatives and the Nation for inclusion in the Congressional Record a poem favored by Mr. Cross and a letter written to me by Mr. Clarence E. Nunn, Sr., executive director of the Boys and Girls Club.

THE HOUSE BY THE SIDE OF THE ROAD

"HE WAS A FRIEND TO MAN, AND LIVED IN A
HOUSE BY THE SIDE OF THE ROAD."

HOMER

There are hermit souls that live withdrawn,
In the peace of their self-content;
There are souls, like stars, that dwell apart,
In a fellowless firmament;
There are pioneer souls that blaze their
paths, Where highways never ran;
But let me live by the side of the road. And
be a friend to man.

Let me live in a house by the side of the
road, Where the race of men go by—
The men who are good and the men who are
bad, As good and as bad as I.

I would not sit in the scorner's seat, Or hurl
the cynic's ban;

Let me live in a house by the side of the
road, And be a friend to man.

I see from my house by the side of the road,
By the side of the highway of life,

The men who press with the ardor of hope,
The men who are faint with the strife.

But I turn not away from their smiles nor
their tears—Both parts of an infinite
plan;

Let me live in my house by the side of the
road, And be a friend to man.

I know there are brook-gladdened meadows
ahead, And mountains of wearisome
height,

That the road passes on through the long
afternoon, And stretches away to the
night.

But still I rejoice when the travelers rejoice,
And weep with the strangers that moan,
Nor live in my house by the side of the road,
Like a man who dwells alone.

Let me live in my house by the side of the
road, Where the race of men go by—

They are good, they are bad, they are weak,
they are strong,

Wise, foolish—so am I.

Then why should I sit in the scorner's seat,
Or hurl the cynic's ban?—

Let me live in my house by the side of the
road, And be a friend to man.

Sam Walter Foss.

OSCAR CROSS BOYS &
GIRLS CLUB OF PADUCAH,
Paducah, KY, May 17, 1999

DEAR CONGRESSMAN WHITFIELD, I am enclosing a brief history of Oscar Cross, the founder of the Oscar Cross Boys & Girls Club of Paducah, who was killed in an automobile accident on Tuesday, April 20, 1999. The Paducah community and untold numbers of men and women across the nation owe a huge debt to Mr. Cross for the countless acts of unconditional love and service to mankind he performed while living.

For several years, Mr. Cross worked as a janitor at the courthouse in Paducah, and the courthouse became the initial meeting place for the newly organized Jr. Legion Boys Club formed by Mr. Cross and a few local young men in 1950. In 1953, the organization united with the Boys Clubs of America. It was the first African-American club and is the second oldest Boys & Girls Club in Kentucky. The dream of operating a safe, drug-free environment for kids became a reality for Mr. Cross after many days and nights of soul-searching, praying and rising above the obstacles of segregation and separatist attitudes.

When he was refused access to a larger building and better facilities for his "boys" he sought other creative ways to obtain his goals. He and several club members cleaned and sold used bricks in order to secure the necessary funds to purchase the current club location on Jackson Street. Each time a door was slammed in his face, he invented "windows" of opportunity until he was able to achieve his mission. His tenacity and perseverance enabled him to see his vision of a facility for the youth of Paducah become a reality and in 1987, the library named in honor of Delbert Shumpert, a talented athlete and former club member, was erected on the site of the current boys & girls address.

Throughout his lifetime, Mr. Cross received innumerable awards, certificates and letters of recognition, far too many to list in this letter. However, a few of his recognized achievements include: The Bronze Keystone Award from the Boys & Girls Club of America for 25 years of service (the first black to receive this award), Kentucky Colonel Award, a Duke of Paducah Award, certificate of merit from the Paducah Area Chamber of Commerce, certificate of appreciation from the 4-H Club of Paducah Community College, the Lucy Hart Smith-Atwood S. Wilson Award from the Human Relations Committee of the Kentucky Education Association and many, many others. His most recent honor came three days before his death from Kappa Alpha Psi, a community service fraternity, for his humanitarian efforts.

His legacy of "never give up in the face of adversity" is something that will be treasured and remembered by all who had the privilege of knowing him for the brief 92 years he spent with us. Until his death he continued to be an active vital member of the club, continuing to look for financial opportunities and ways to develop our young people so that they would realize there are alternatives to the streets. He was and is a remarkable man and an excellent role model.

Sincerely,

CLARENCE L. NUNN, SR.,
Executive Director.

CALLING FOR MILOSEVIC TO BE
HELD RESPONSIBLE FOR HIS AC-
TIONS

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, May 25, 1999

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, today I am joined by my friend and colleague, Representative BILL PASCRELL and 14 other cosponsors in introducing a resolution which declares the conviction of this Congress that Slobodan Milosevic is responsible for war crimes, crimes against humanity, and genocide in the former Yugoslavia. His actions in that region cannot be excused by anything which Serbia's neighbors or the international community has done. His victims demand justice. Unfortunately, the United States Government may not be doing all that it can to provide evidence to the International Criminal Tribunal in The Hague to have Milosevic publicly indicted.

In the 105th Congress, there was near unanimous support for H. Con. Res. 304 and its Senate companion, S. Con. Res. 105. But in the past year little has been done to advance the just cause of ascribing blame to this man. Instead, we have had to watch as more atrocities have been committed in Kosovo, but no evident attempts to hold Milosevic personally and fully responsible for his actions. This is the reason that this resolution, which updates those passed last Congress, must again be considered by this body.

During the Bosnian phase of the Yugoslav conflict, from 1992 to 1995, Slobodan Milosevic was able to incite extreme nationalist feelings among Serbs, and he used that as basis to commit acts of genocide against non-Serb civilians. From early 1998 to the present, the same thing has been happening in Kosovo. As the resolution points out, about 4 million people have been displaced during the Yugoslav conflicts, including 1.5 million Kosovar Albanians, most of the latter since late March. Hundreds of thousands have been killed, some by mass executions and others by reckless shelling of towns and villages. Tens of thousands have been raped and tortured, often in detention centers and concentration camps. Vestiges of a people's daily lives, from their mosques to their local registration papers, are destroyed. Read the definition of genocide from the Genocide Convention itself, and read what happened in Bosnia and what is happening today in Kosovo.

Clearly, this is genocide.

The Helsinki Commission, which I Chair, has heard testimony from many witnesses—including lawyers, doctors, humanitarian relief aid workers, and diplomats who have had extensive firsthand experience in the region—and they have testified to this fact. As a result, in addition to last year's resolution, I recently wrote to President Clinton urging that prosecution of war criminals not be placed on the negotiating table as a bargaining chip to be thrown away, and urging that the U.S. Government use the resources at its disposal to help the Tribunal issue an indictment of Milosevic. Just two weeks ago, the Commission held a hearing on a variety of legal actions stemming from the genocide in Bosnia-Herzegovina and Kosovo.

Many of us in this body have witnessed firsthand stories from ethnic Albanians who

escaped their homeland into Macedonia and Albania. These traumatized people now sit in refugee camps, their entire lives left behind, with an uncertain future.

Mr. Speaker, all those involved in war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide in the former Yugoslavia must be held accountable for their roles. The evidence is overwhelming. As the head of his country, Milosevic must be among them. We must ask ourselves why he has done nothing other than give medals to those who have engaged in terrible crimes in Kosovo if he himself is not responsible for those crimes. He is at minimum responsible as Head of State for stopping these crimes from occurring. He is at least responsible for giving soldier the license to get away with raping, killing and cleansing the people of Kosovo. And he is likely responsible for directing his security forces and paramilitary associates to commit such acts.

Mr. Speaker, with this resolution we are putting the House on record as saying: The ethnic cleansing in Bosnia-Herzegovina and Kosovo was no accident but part of Belgrade's policy. There can be no true peace in the Balkans that excludes justice. It is in U.S. national interest to assist those who can provide justice, and that our government must therefore do more to help the Tribunal develop a case against Slobodan Milosevic.

As Mark Ellis of the American Bar Association's Coalition for International Justice, who provided testimony at one of our hearings on Kosovo, recently stated, "Inevitably, lasting peace will be linked to justice, and justice will depend on accountability. Failing to indict Milosevic in the hope that he can deliver a negotiated settlement makes a mockery of the words 'Never Again.'" Let's affirm that we really do mean "Never Again" by again passing a resolution which states our belief that Milosevic is responsible for war crimes, crimes against humanity and, yes, genocide.

For the RECORD, Mr. Speaker, I want to submit an article by Mark Ellis from the May 9, 1999, Washington Post and the letter I sent to President Clinton which further illustrate the culpability of Slobodan Milosevic.

COMMISSION ON SECURITY
AND COOPERATION IN EUROPE
Washington, DC, March 31, 1999.

HON. WILLIAM JEFFERSON CLINTON,
President of the United States, The White House, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT: I request that you direct all federal agencies that may hold information relevant to a possible indictment of Slobodan Milosevic, President of Serbia and Montenegro, to provide the evidence of war crimes, crimes against humanity, and genocide to the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia (ICTY) in The Hague. The United States should make it a high priority to assemble this information, review and where necessary declassify it, and provide the documentation in the most expeditious manner possible to the prosecutor's office at the Tribunal. I respectfully suggest that you should include in your directive instructions to agency heads to reprogram funds and reassign personnel as necessary to permit immediate and effective implementation of this requested directive.

As the sponsor of H. Con. Res. 304, expressing the sense of the Congress regarding the culpability of Slobodan Milosevic for war crimes, crimes against humanity, and genocide in the former Yugoslavia, that was adopted by the House by a record vote of 369 to 1 on September 14, 1998, I was startled and

surprised to learn that the United States has not made an effort to gather information on Milosevic as the House and Senate requested. The attached article entitled "CONFLICT IN THE BALKANS: THE TRIBUNAL; Tactics Were Barrier To Top Serb's Indictment," by Raymond Bonner, appeared in the March 29, 1999, edition of The New York Times. The article notes:

The Clinton administration could hardly have taken the initiative to build a case against Milosevic, one senior administration official explained Sunday, after it adopted the policy in late 1994 of working with the Serbian leader to bring about an end to the war in Bosnia. "We, the United States government, have been the largest source of information for the tribunal, but we have never compiled dossiers with the aim of indicting Milosevic, or any specific individual," said this official, who spoke on condition of anonymity. "The indictment of Milosevic would require a policy change by the United States," he added.

If this report is accurate, it is past time for U.S. policy to include the pursuit of a public indictment of Milosevic by the ICTY. Issuance of a Presidential directive establishing such a policy, supported by adequate resources to assure its immediate and effective implementation, is clearly justified by the reports of the Helsinki Commission has received about actions by Yugoslav Army, paramilitary, and police forces under Milosevic's command in Kosovo that probably constitute war crimes, crimes against humanity, and genocide. Congress has already expressed its overwhelming support for such a course of action by adopting both H. Con. Res. 304 and S. Con. Res. 105 (copy attached) last year.

I look forward to learning what direction you have given the policy-level officers of the United States government concerning this issue.

Sincerely,

CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH,
Chairman.

[From the Washington Post, May 9, 1999]
WAR CRIMINALS BELONG IN THE DOCK, NOT AT
THE TABLE

(By Mark S. Ellis)

Just a few weeks ago, I stood among a sea of 20,000 desperate people on a dirt airfield outside Skopje, Macedonia, listening to one harrowing story after another. I had come to the Stenkovec refugee camp to record those stories and to help set up a system for documenting atrocities in Kosovo.

As I collected their accounts of rape, torture and executions at the hands of Serbian troops, I was struck by the refugees' common yearning for justice. They wanted those responsible for their suffering to be held accountable. Their anger was not only directed at the people they had watched committing such savagery, but at the political leaders—and Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic in particular—who had orchestrated the misery and continue to act with impunity.

The means exist to hold Milosevic and his underlings accountable. In recent weeks, there have been calls from members of Congress for his indictment by the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, and Undersecretary of State Thomas Pickering has said that the United States is gathering evidence that could lead to his indictment. And there is plenty of evidence. In the Kosovo town of Djalovica, for example, residents carefully documented the Serbian barbarity for investigators, recording the details of each murder, each rape, each act of violence, before they fled the city. The time has come to act on the testimony of these and other witnesses.

To do so, of course, flies in the face of last week's much ballyhooed optimism about reaching a negotiated settlement with Milosevic. However eager the Clinton administration might be to reach a political and diplomatic solution, we should remember that those who have recently suffered under Serbian attacks reject outright the notion that justice must sometimes be forfeited for the sake of diplomatic expediency. During the Bosnian conflict, accountability was sacrificed on the dubious premise that negotiating with someone who is widely regarded as a war criminal is a legitimate exercise in peace-making. We shouldn't make that mistake a second time around. Milosevic's broken promises still echo among the charred ruins and forsaken mass grave sites that defile the landscape of Bosnia.

If Milosevic had been indicted for the mass killings and summary executions that the Bosnian Serbs—with backing from Serbia—are accused of carrying out, would he have acted so brazenly to "cleanse" Kosovo of its ethnic Albanians? Nobody knows. At the very least an indictment would probably have deterred him; and apprehension and a trial would have stopped him. But there should be no uncertainty about what occurs when Milosevic is allowed to act unencumbered. The time has come for the international war crimes tribunal to help put an end to that.

Inaugurated by the United Nations on May 25, 1993, and based in The Hague, the Yugoslav war crimes tribunal has, to date, tried just 16 defendants. With a staff of more than 750 and an annual budget of more than \$94 million, it has the resources—and the authority—to indict Milosevic. Indeed, failure to indict would reveal the tribunal's impotence in the face of political controversy, and prove that this institution of international law and justice is merely an expensive and irrelevant relic.

How difficult would it be to indict Milosevic? Not difficult at all. Under the tribunal's statute, the office of the prosecutor need only determine "that a prima facie case exists," that's to say that the prosecutor must gather evidence sufficient to prove reasonable grounds that Milosevic committed a single crime under the tribunal's extensive jurisdiction.

With this in mind, the chances of Milosevic being held accountable increase with the arrival of each new group of refugees driven from their homes in Kosovo. Their remarkably consistent testimony is providing crucial information—now being gathered by representatives of the tribunal as well as by human rights organizations—about what has actually taken place in Kosovo. These first-hand accounts are indispensable in building a case against Milosevic—and the refugees I interviewed during the days I was there are willing to testify about what they saw.

But with refugees flooding out of Kosovo and some being relocated in distant countries, the prosecutor's office must ensure that testimony is taken swiftly, legally and professionally. The lack of access to Kosovo by independent journalists and human rights monitors and the extreme instability of refugee life heighten the importance of collecting these accounts while they are still fresh in people's minds. Yet the prosecutor's office was slow to act. A full five weeks went by before the tribunal sent a corps of investigators to the region.

What crimes should the Yugoslav president be indicted for? The tribunal's statute provides jurisdiction over "serious violations of international humanitarian law" including both "crimes against humanity" and "geno-

cide," the most abhorrent of all. Milosevic should be indicted for both.

Crimes against humanity are defined as "systematic and widespread" and directed at any civilian population; they include murder, extermination, imprisonment, rape and deportation. They are distinguished from other acts of communal violence because civilians are victimized according to a systematic plan that usually emanates from the highest levels of government.

In Kosovo, the forced deportation of ethnic Albanians by the Yugoslav army and the Serbian Interior Ministry police force is an obvious manifestation of such crimes. The refugees with whom I spoke described being robbed, beaten, herded together and forced to flee their villages with nothing but the clothes they were wearing. By confiscating all evidence of the ethnic Albanians' identity—passports, birth certificates, employment records, driver's licenses, marriage licenses—the Serbian forces also severed the refugees' links with their communities and land in Kosovo. This attempt to make each ethnic Albanian a non-person is itself a crime against humanity. Emerging evidence of mass killings, summary executions and gang rape lends further credence to the widespread and systematic nature of these crimes.

As to the crime of genocide, the tribunal's statute rests on the 1948 Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of Genocide, which defines genocide as "acts committed with intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnical, racial or religious group." Arising as it did from the extermination of the Jews in Nazi Germany, the convention invites comparison with the Holocaust and is intended to prevent such heinous crimes from happening again. This tragedy has not reached that perverse level of brutality but, like earlier efforts to eliminate an entire people—whether the Jews, the Armenians or the Tutsis—it should be prosecuted as a crime of genocide.

The convention addresses intent, and stipulates that acts designed to eliminate a people—in whole or in part—constitute genocide. Among other acts covered by the convention, crimes of genocide include "(a) killing members of the group; (b) causing serious bodily or mental harm to members of the group; (c) deliberately inflicting on the group conditions of life calculated to bring about its physical destruction in whole or in part."

In the former Yugoslavia, acts of genocide have been perpetrated through the abhorrent policy of ethnic cleansing—that is, making areas ethnically homogenous by expelling entire segments of the Kosovar population and destroying the very fabric of a people.

Ethnic cleansing does not require the elimination of all ethnic Albanians: it may target specific elements of the community that make the group—as a group—sustainable. The abduction the execution of the intelligentsia, including public officials, lawyers, doctors and political leaders, for example, is part of a pattern of ethnic cleansing and could constitute genocide, as could targeting a particular segment of the population such as young men. It is clear from the refugees who have been interviewed that these acts are being systematically committed in Kosovo.

An often overlooked but important element of the 1948 convention is that an individual can be indicated not only for committing genocide, but also for conspiring to commit genocide, inciting the public to commit genocide, attempting to commit genocide or for complicity in genocide. The Point

is that criminal responsibility extends far beyond those who actually perform the physical acts resulting in genocide. In short, the political architects such as Milosevic are no less responsible than the forces that carry out this butchery. There is no immunity from genocide.

Prosecuting Milosevic will require relying on a legal strategy based on the concept of "imputed command responsibility." Under this theory, Milosevic can be held responsible for crimes committed by his subordinates if he knew or had reason to know that crimes were about to be committed and he failed to take preventive measures of to punish those who had already committed crimes.

Since it is unlikely that Milosevic has allowed documentary evidence to be preserved that would link him to atrocities in Kosovo, the prosecutor's office will have to rely heavily on circumstantial evidence to build its case. This means identifying a consistent "pattern of conduct" that links Milosevic to similar illegal acts, to the officers and staff involved, or to the logistics involved in carrying out atrocities. The very fact that atrocities have been so widespread, flagrant, grotesque and similar in nature makes it near certain that Milosevic knew of them; despite his recent protestations to the contrary, it defies logic to suggest that he could be unaware of what his forces are doing.

What will the consequences be if the Yugoslav president is indicted? First an indictment would send a clear message that the international community will not negotiate or have contact with a war criminal. It is current U.S. policy not to negotiate with indicted war crimes suspects. And so it should be. Milosevic would be stripped of international statute except as a fugitive from justice. This might, in turn, open an avenue for Serbians to once again distance themselves from their leader's regime. Second, an indictment would likely result in an *ex parte* hearing in which the prosecutor's office could present its case in open court—without Milosevic being there. By establishing a public record of Milosevic's role in the crimes committed, such a hearing would be cathartic for both victims and witnesses, and also for citizens long denied access to the truth. Finally, the tribunal would issue an international arrest warrant making it unlikely that Milosevic would venture outside his country's borders.

When I watched the bus loads of new arrivals enter the Stenkovec camp, I saw a small girl's face pressed against the window. Her hollow eyes seemed to stare at no one. History was being repeated. In his opening statement at the Nuremberg trials in 1945, U.S. chief prosecutor Robert H. Jackson said, "The wrongs which we seek to condemn and punish have been so calculated, so malignant, and so devastating that civilization cannot tolerate their being ignored, because it cannot survive their being repeated." Jackson was expressing the hope that law would somehow redeem the next generation and that similar atrocities would never again be allowed. Today, we must hold personally liable those individuals who commit atrocities in the former Yugoslavia. To negotiate with the perpetrators of these crimes not only demands the suffering of countless civilian victims, it sends a clear message that justice is expendable, that war crimes can go unpunished. Inevitably, lasting peace will be linked to justice, and justice will depend on accountability. Failing to indict Milosevic in the hope that he can deliver a negotiated settlement makes a mockery of the words "Never Again."

THE HEALTH INFORMATION
PRIVACY ACT OF 1999

HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 25, 1999

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join Reps. GARY CONDIT, ED MARKEY, JOHN DINGELL, SHERRON BROWN, JIM TURNER, and my other colleagues in introducing the Health Information Privacy Act of 1999. There is an urgent need for Congress to enact legislation to protect the privacy of medical records. We have worked hard to develop a consensus approach to achieve this goal.

Health records contain some of our most personal information. Unfortunately, there is no comprehensive federal law that protects the privacy of medical records. As a result, we face a constant threat of serious privacy intrusions. Our records can be bought and sold for commercial gain, disclosed to employers, and used to deny us insurance. There have been numerous disturbing reports of such inappropriate use and disclosure of health information.

When individual have inadequate control over their health information, our health care system as a whole suffers. For example, a recent survey by the California HealthCare Foundation found that one out of every seven adults has done something "out of the ordinary" to keep health information confidential, including steps such as giving inaccurate information to their providers or avoiding care together.

The Health Information Privacy Act would protect the privacy of health information and ensure that individuals have appropriate control over their health records. It is based on three fundamental principles. First, health information should not be used or disclosed without the authorization or knowledge of the individual, except in narrow circumstances where there is an overriding public interest. Second, individuals should have fundamental rights regarding their health records, such as the right to access, copy, and amend their records, and the opportunity to seek protection for especially sensitive information. Third, federal legislation should provide a "floor," not a "ceiling," so that states and the Secretary of Health and Human Services can establish additional protections as appropriate.

Congress faces an August 21 deadline for passing comprehensive legislation to protect the privacy of health information. I am very pleased to have come together with Mr. CONDIT, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. DINGELL, Mr. BROWN, and Mr. TURNER in developing this common-sense legislation. These members have been leaders in health care and privacy issues for years. As a result of their expertise and insight, I believe we have produced a consensus bill that colleagues with a wide spectrum of perspective can support.

A recent editorial in the *Los Angeles Times* exhorted Congress to "fulfill its promise to pass the nation's first medical privacy bill." It called for legislators in both houses to "embrace [this] compromise language" that my colleagues and I have drafted.

I hope that my colleagues will join me in cosponsoring this legislation, and I look forward to working with them to ensure that Congress meets its responsibility to address this important issue.

INTRODUCING LEGISLATION TO
AWARD A CONGRESSIONAL GOLD
MEDAL TO REV. THEODORE
HESBURGH, C.S.C.

HON. TIM ROEMER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 25, 1999

Mr. ROEMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation to award a Congressional Gold Medal to Rev. Theodore Hesburgh, C.S.C. I introduce this bill with Representatives PETER KING, JOHN LEWIS, PETE VISCLOSKEY, MARK SOUDER, ANNE NORTHUP and 85 original cosponsors in the U.S. House of Representatives. It is my understanding that a companion bill will be introduced in the U.S. Senate later today.

This bipartisan legislation recognizes Father Hesburgh for his many outstanding contributions to the United States and the global community. The bill authorizes the President to award a gold medal to Father Hesburgh on behalf of the United States Congress. It also authorizes the U.S. Mint to strike and sell duplicates to the public.

The public service career of Father Hesburgh, president emeritus of the University of Notre Dame, is as distinguished as his many educational contributions. Over the years, he has held 15 Presidential appointments and he has remained a national leader in the fields of education, civil rights and the development of the Third World. Highlighting a lengthy list of awards to Father Hesburgh is the Medal of Freedom, our Nation's highest civilian honor, bestowed on him by President Johnson in 1964.

Mr. Speaker, justice has been the primary focus of Father Hesburgh's pursuits throughout his life. He was a charter member of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, created by Congress in 1957 as a compromise to end a filibuster in the U.S. Senate to prevent passage of any and all legislation concerning civil rights in general and voting rights in particular. Father Hesburgh chaired the commission from 1969 to 1972, until President Nixon replaced him as chairman because of his criticism of the Administration's civil rights record.

Father Hesburgh stepped down as head of the University of Notre Dame in 1987, ending the longest tenure among active presidents of American institutions of higher learning. He continues in retirement much as he did as the Nation's senior university chief executive officer—as a leading educator and humanitarian inspiring generations of students and citizens, and generously sharing his wisdom in the struggle for the rights of man.

I am personally grateful to Father Hesburgh for his friendship and guidance during my years as a student at the University of Notre Dame. My family shares my gratitude. My grandfather, William Roemer, was a professor of philosophy during the early years of Father Hesburgh's presidency, and my parents, Jim and Mary Ann Roemer, also worked during his tenure at the University.

Mr. Speaker, I once asked Father Hesburgh for advice about how to raise a happy and healthy family with children. His reply was helpful, insightful and advice I continue to follow today: "Love their mother." I strongly believe Father Hesburgh's response here was just one of many shining examples illustrating

that his contributions to family values in American society are as numerous and meaningful as his devoted contributions to human rights, education, the Catholic Church and the global community.

Mr. Speaker, today is Father Hesburgh's 82nd birthday, and I believe that this is the most appropriate time for Congress and the entire Nation to join me in recognizing this remarkable man and living legend of freedom in America. I strongly encourage my colleagues to support this bipartisan legislation and urge the House of Representatives to pass this important measure.

RUTH HYMAN TESTIMONIAL DINNER AT THE JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER OF MONMOUTH COUNTY

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 25, 1999

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, June 3, 1999, the Jewish Community Center of Greater Monmouth County in Deal, NJ, will honor one of our leading citizens, Ms. Ruth Hyman, with a Testimonial Dinner. I am pleased to add my voice to the chorus of praise for this exceptional lady.

Mr. Speaker, it is rare to see someone who has made such an impact on her community as Ruth Hyman has. Through her professional work, civic commitments, wide-ranging network of friendships and a unique personal flair, she has made a deep and lasting impression. Her accomplishments include her apparel business, Ruth Hyman Fashions, and a lifetime of work with numerous Jewish community organizations. Ruth is currently the President of the Long Branch, NJ, Hadassah, a Benefactor and Board Member of the Jewish Community Center, Board Member of the Jewish Family and Children's Service, and Member of Congregation of Brothers of Israel. She was the first Chairperson of the Women's Business and Professional Division of the Jewish Federation. Some of her other affiliations and leadership positions include, Past President and International Life Member of American Red Magen David for Israel, life member of Daughters of Miriam, AMIT, B'nai Brith, Past President of Deborah, and Life Member of the Central New Jersey Home for the Aged. She is also Chairperson of the Women's Division of Israel Bonds, a position she has held for the past 25 years.

All of this hard work has not gone unnoticed, Mr. Speaker. Ruth has been presented with the Hadassah National Leadership Award and the Service Award from the Jewish Federation's Women's Campaign, and she was selected as Chai Honoree and Woman of the Year of the Long Branch Chapter of Hadassah. She was chosen by the Jewish Federation as Lay Leader of the Year. She has been presented with the State of Israel Bonds Golda Meir Award, the Service Award from the Jewish Federation Women's Campaign, and the State of Israel Bonds Ben Gurion Award.

In addition to her major contributions at the Jewish Community Center, Ruth is founder of Hadassah Hospital at Ein Kerem, Israel, and the Mt. Scopus Hospital, where her name is inscribed on the hospital's Pillar of Hope.

Mr. Speaker, as everyone who has known her will attest, Ruth Hyman's hard work for the community emanates from her sincere warmth and generosity. It is an honor to join with the JCC in paying tribute to her, for who she is and what she's done.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 25, 1999

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, on May 24, 1999, I was unavoidably detained during two roll call votes: number 145, on the Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass H.R. 1251, Designating the Noal Cushing Bateman Post Office Building; and number 146, on the Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass H.R. 100, to Establish Designations for U.S. Postal Service Buildings in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Had I been present for the votes, I would have voted "aye" on roll call votes 145 and 146.

IN HONOR OF THE FIELD MUSEUM'S DEDICATION OF THE SIDNEY R. AND ADDIE YATES EXHIBITION CENTER

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 25, 1999

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to celebrate the dedication of the Sidney R. and Addie Yates Exhibition Center located at the Field Museum of Natural History in Chicago, IL, on May 27, 1999. The Center is so named because of the tremendous contributions that Congressman Yates and his wife, Addie, made over the years in support of the arts, humanities, and the environment.

There is no greater champion of the arts, humanities, and environment than Congressman Sidney Yates, and there is no greater champion of Congressman Yates than his life-long mate, Addie. In her own right, Addie has contributed greatly to causes close and dear to her heart. She spearheaded the wonderful exhibit, "The Children's Wall of Remembrance," in the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum, commemorating the nearly 1.5 million children who perished in the Holocaust. Through her efforts, hundreds of thousands of American children were educated about the Holocaust and expressed this learning by painting tiles, which eventually found their way to this, now famous, Wall of Remembrance.

Congressman Yates' illustrious 48-year career in the House included saving the arts and humanities from drastic budget cuts in the 1980's, helping to establish the National Holocaust Museum here in Washington, DC, empowering the Department of Interior to safeguard more public lands and the rights of Native Americans, and protecting the Tongass National Forest from logging. The field Museum's state-of-the-art new exhibition center will be a lasting tribute to the work of Mr. Yates.

Located on Chicago's beautiful lakefront, the Field Museum is one of the city's crown jew-

els. Since its founding in 1893, the Field Museum has been a leader in the natural sciences, conducting world-class research in disciplines such as anthropology, biology, agriculture, ecology and sociology. The Field's collection of over 20 million specimens, including its recent acquisition of "Sue", the largest and most complete Tyrannosaurus Rex ever found, serve to both educate and astound the visiting public.

The Sidney R. and Addie Yates Exhibition Center will serve as a permanent tribute to the Congressman in Chicago. It will be seen by the millions of visitors who make the Museum their destination for cultural programming. The facility will offer new and unique temporary exhibits, such as the current exhibit, "The Art of Being Kuna: Layers of Meaning Among the Kuna of Panama," which will instruct and delight visitors from Chicago, the nation, and the world.

While we miss Sid Yates, we will never forget the legacy he left behind, nor will the millions of visitors to the Field who will gaze and look in wonderment at the exhibits placed in the Center named for Sid and Addie Yates.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 1141, 1999 EMERGENCY SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT

HON. JULIAN C. DIXON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 25, 1999

Mr. DIXON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to reluctantly support this conference report, as well as commend Chairman YOUNG, Mr. OBEY, and the conferees for their hard work in bringing this difficult bill to the floor. Clearly, many of my colleagues share my ambivalence about this legislation. As a body, we seem to be all over the place on this measure. Some of my friends on the Republican side voted earlier this month to oppose NATO intervention in Kosovo; now they support doubling the President's Kosovo budget request. My Democratic colleagues support funding to provide relief to tornado victims in Oklahoma, hurricane victims in Central America, and refugees in Kosovo; however, they balk at the bill's environmental riders and inflated defense spending. Members on both sides of the aisle decry emergency designation of non-emergency items, but we have a bipartisan inability to admit that our current budget caps are unrealistic and unworkable.

I have great concerns over portions of this legislation; however, on balance, Mr. Speaker, I believe that the need for much of the funding is real and outweighs my reservations. Given the situation in Kosovo three months ago and our commitment to the defense of Europe, I believe that President Clinton made the right decision to join our NATO allies in acting against Milosevic's ethnic cleansing campaign. The responsibility to allocate dollars to pay for the military campaign falls on the Congress. While the increases over the President's request for Kosovo should be addressed in the regular 2000 appropriations process, we need to move forward to commit these funds.

I strongly support emergency funding for non-defense items in the supplemental. The

Congress has moved expeditiously, as is our tradition, to address the destruction caused by recent tornadoes in Oklahoma and Kansas. H.R. 1141 also includes long overdue relief to Central America still struggling in the aftermath of Hurricane Mitch. Sorely needed relief is being supplied to America's farmers.

Today's vote to provide \$100 million in military assistance and economic support to Jordan coincides with the visit of King Abdullah. These funds will enable that nation to assist in the Middle East peace process, pursuant to the Wye River agreement. There is renewed optimism that the recent elections in Israel can help reinvigorate that process.

This bill also includes some important legislative provisions. The repeal of the June 15th funding cutoff for the Departments of Commerce, Justice, and State and the Federal Judiciary, included in the fiscal 1999 omnibus bill, ensures that essential government functions no longer face shutdown. The bill grants the Department of Justice the authority to make restitution to Japanese Americans and Latin Americans of Japanese descent who were forcibly detained in the United States during World War II, but whose claims have not been settled. Settlement of these claims will close a shameful episode in this great nation's history.

The Republican majority continues to use appropriations bills to pass damaging environmental provisions. This time we have Senate provisions to protect narrow special interests at the expense of the environment. We continue to delay reforms to the 1872 mining law and changes in oil valuation which ensure that the government receives reasonable royalties from drilling on federal land. I urge my colleagues to vote to recommit this legislation so that the bill's onerous environmental provisions can be removed.

So, while I share the reservations voiced by many of my colleagues, I believe we need to move forward with the important work H.R. 1141 funds.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 25, 1999

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, I commend the following statement to my colleagues. When I was traveling back to Washington, D.C. on May 24, 1999, H.R. 974, the District of Columbia College Access Act, was passed by voice vote. Due to the fact that I was commuting and the vote took place before the 6 p.m. scheduled time, I missed the voice vote. I would like to make it known for the record that had I been present, I would have asked for a recorded vote and voted against this bill. I do not feel that students in the District of Columbia should be made "exceptions" when it comes to paying in-states fees at any state institution. This privilege is not granted to students in this country who choose to attend a state college outside of their residential state.

CROATIAN SONS LODGE NUMBER 170 OF THE CROATIAN FRATERNAL UNION CELEBRATES ITS 92ND ANNIVERSARY

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 25, 1999

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct honor to congratulate the Croatian Sons Lodge Number 170 of the Croatian Fraternal Union on the festive occasion of its 92nd Anniversary and Golden Member banquet on Sunday, June 6, 1999.

This year, the Croatian Fraternal Union will hold this gala event at the Croatian Center in Merrillville, Indiana. Traditionally, the anniversary celebration entails a formal recognition of the Union's Golden Members, those who have achieved fifty years of membership. This year's honorees who have attained fifty years of membership include: Frances Joan Banchy, Willard A. Conway, Thomas Fadlevic, Marie Flynn, Edward W. Fritz, Frank Grishka, Steve Massack, Violet Mae Mikulich, John Mlacak, Mary Patterson, Marian P. Ritter, and Mike Svaco.

These loyal and dedicated individuals share this prestigious honor with approximately 300 additional Lodge members who have previously attained this status.

This memorable day will begin with a morning mass at Saint Joseph the Worker Catholic Church in Gary, Indiana, with the Reverend Father Benedict Benakovich officiating. In the afternoon, there will be a program featuring a guest speaker, Mr. John Buncich, Sheriff of Lake County, Indiana. The festivities will be culturally enriched by the performance of several Croatian musical groups. The Croatian Glee Club, "Preradovic," directed by Brother Dennis Barunica, and the Hoosier Hrvati Adult Tamburitza Orchestra, directed by Edo Sindich, will both perform at this gala event. The Croatian Strings Tamburitza and Junior Dancers directed by Dennis Barunica, and the Adult Kolo group, under the direction of Elizabeth Kyriakides, will provide additional entertainment for those in attendance. A formal dinner banquet at 4 o'clock in the afternoon will end the day's festivities.

Mr. Speaker, I urge you and my other distinguished colleagues to join me in commending Lodge president Betty Morgavan, and all the other members of the Croatian Fraternal Union Lodge Number 170, for their loyalty and radiant display of passion for their ethnicity. The Croatian community has played a key role in enriching the quality of life and culture of Northwest Indiana. It is my hope that this year will bring renewed hope and prosperity for all members of the Croatian community and their families.

CONGRATULATIONS TO BLUE RIBBON SCHOOL RECIPIENT PRINCESS VICTORIA KA'IULANI ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

HON. NEIL ABERCROMBIE

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 25, 1999

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Princess Victoria

Ka'uilani Elementary School, which has earned the prestigious Blue Ribbon Schools Award from the U.S. Department of Education.

The Blue Ribbon Schools Program identifies and gives national recognition to a diverse group of public and private schools that have been judged particularly effective in meeting local, state, and national goals. In being selected, Princess Ka'uilani Elementary School displayed the qualities of excellence that are necessary to prepare our young people for the challenges of the next century. The school demonstrates its strong leadership by providing high quality teaching, instilling policies and practices that ensure a safe environment conducive to learning, initiating strong parental and community involvement, and helping all students achieve to high standards.

The awarding of Princess Victoria Ka'uilani Elementary School as a Blue Ribbon School is made even more special by the fact that this year marks the school's centennial anniversary. The school opened its doors on April 22, 1899 and was named for the beautiful Princess Victoria Ka'uilani. The name Ka'uilani means "Child from Heaven." The students come from diverse cultures and various social backgrounds in the Kalihi-Palama neighborhood of Honolulu, Hawaii. And while the neighborhood is sometimes known for gangs and drug dealing, the school has a warm and friendly environment. The school definitely exudes the spirit of "aloha" and "ohana" (family). This nurturing atmosphere helps students to believe in themselves and offers an opportunity to learn and move forward.

There are a variety of factors that contribute to the school's success. For example, at the beginning of each year, parents are given a student ready reference guide, a school profile, and a syllabus of the school's curriculum and activities. To further initiate parental involvement, a monthly parent bulletin is jointly authored by Title I, Parent-Community Networking Centers (PCNC), Primary School Adjustment Project (PSAP) and the Principal. Community involvement is also well established. Groups such as The Rotary Club of Metropolitan Honolulu, the USS Louisville, 516th Signal Brigade from the Fort Shafter Army Installation and the USS Chicago have contributed to the school's various campus beautification projects, providing access to the Internet and even assisting in classes and chaperoning field trips. Also, English Second Language Learners (ESLL) provides support to 101 students whose native language range from Vietnamese, Ilocano, Cantonese, Samoan, Tagalog, Visayan, Lao, Korean, Mandarin, Tongan, Micronesian and Fijian. In fact, students have continued to improve in Stanford Achievement Test (SAT) scores and due to a strong focus on literacy, reading levels have significantly increased over the past few years.

Again, I wish to commend and congratulate the students, teachers, parents, administration, and staff of Princess Victoria Ka'uilani Elementary School for its strong efforts and proud achievement in receiving the Blue Ribbon Schools Award.

GUAM COMMEMORATES PEACE OFFICERS MEMORIAL DAY

HON. ROBERT A. UNDERWOOD

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 25, 1999

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, in 1962, President John F. Kennedy signed the law establishing National Police Week. Commemorated every year since, this seven-day period begins on a Sunday and ends on a Saturday—the last day being designated as "Peace Officers Memorial Day."

This special period set aside to honor the nation's law enforcement and memorialize their fallen comrades has always served to develop close bonds between officers and their colleagues from across the country. These ceremonies of recognition and remembrance bring people together and enable survivors to gain strength from others who share and understand their grief.

Here, in our nation's capital, more than 10,000 police officers, survivors and supporters gathered to attend this year's activities. As in the past years, National Police Week was a great demonstration of this grateful nation's appreciation for the service and sacrifices of peace officers.

In my home island of Guam, services were also held to recognize and remember those who have fallen. In ceremonies held annually, peace officers who have lost their lives in the line of duty were honored. The list included: Conservation Officer Francisco Isezaki, Police Officer I John M. Santos, Special Agent Larry D. Wallace, Police Officer I Francisco A. Reyes, Police Officer III Thomas M. Sablan, Police Reserve Officer Rudy C. Iglesias, Police Officer Reserve Helen K. Lizama, Police Officer I Raymond S. Sanchez, Corrections Officer I Douglas W. Mashburn, Police Officer I Eddie A. Santos, USAF Sgt Stacey E. Levay, Police Officer I Francisco D. Taitague, Police Officer I Manuel A. Aquino, and Police Lieutenant Francisco C. Toves.

Those who have passed on within the past year were also remembered in this year's ceremonies. This list included: Col Francisco T. Aguigui, Sgt Jesus Pangelinan, Police Officer Joe Gutierrez, Detention Officer Eugene Benavente, and Police Officer Ralph Bartels.

The people of Guam join the nation in paying tribute and offering thanks for the service and sacrifices of peace officers.

TAIWAN CELEBRATES
PRESIDENTIAL ANNIVERSARY

HON. GARY L. ACKERMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 25, 1999

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor President Lee Teng-hui of the Republic of China on Taiwan who celebrated his third anniversary in office on May 20th, 1999. President Lee has amassed a number of accomplishments throughout the last three years.

Of all the contemporary leaders that the Republic of China has had, President Lee Teng-hui stands out due to his exceptional ability to guide his nation through the transition to a

democratic republic. Furthermore, the effects of the severe financial crisis which have affected much of Asia have been much less severe in Taiwan. This discrepancy can be attributed to President Lee Teng-hui's ability to maintain a stable democratic environment which has allowed a solid foundation for its economy to grow. In addition, he has given his people hope and optimism in Taiwan's ability to confront the future.

President Lee Teng-hui has also made great efforts in trying to reach out to his compatriots on the Chinese mainland. Unfortunately, his gestures of friendship have been answered with lukewarm responses at best from the PRC leadership. However, President Lee Teng-hui refuses to give up his hope of seeing a free and unified China in the future and continues to pursue a policy to that end. His persistence is a sign of his dedication to democracy and is greatly appreciated by the Western world, and in particular the United States.

I wish President Lee Teng-hui every success in the future. He is a respected leader of a free, prosperous and democratic country and deserves no less than our full support.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ROBERT A. WEYGAND

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 25, 1999

Mr. WEYGAND. Mr. Speaker, because of weather-related travel difficulties, I was unfortunately detained in my district Monday, May 24, 1999 and missed several votes as a result.

Had I been here, I would have voted in the following way:

I would have voted yea on rollcall votes 145 and 146.

TRIBUTE TO CHARLES JOHN EBNER

HON. JOHN J. LaFALCE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 25, 1999

Mr. LaFALCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to my good friend and cousin, Charles "Chuck" Ebner, on the occasion of his 75th birthday on June 7th. Chuck was born in Albany, New York, and currently resides with his wife, Laurel, in Barberton, Ohio. I would like to bring to the attention of my colleagues the dedicated service to country and community that has distinguished the life of Charles John Ebner.

In 1942, at the age of 18, Chuck enlisted in the U.S. Navy and was a "selected volunteer" for the U.S. Naval Armed Guard. He attended Gunnery School in Virginia and then was assigned to his first ship, the U.S.S. *China Mail*, whose mission was to transport troops to Africa.

On his second tour of duty on the *China Mail*, the ship circumnavigated the world. The long voyage embarked from the West Coast of Africa, traveling westward across the Atlantic to the Caribbean and through the Panama Canal. After crossing the South Pacific to Aus-

tralia, the *China Mail* continued across the Indian Ocean and into the Persian Gulf, where it dropped off cargo in Iran. The ship passed through the Suez Canal and sailed across the Mediterranean on its return to the West Coast of Africa.

Chuck then returned to the Brooklyn Navy Yard where he prepared for his next assignment as a gunner on the U.S.S. *Carlos Carrillo*. Later he was transferred to the U.S.S. *Sacajawea*, which took part in the invasion of Leyte in the Philippines. Shortly thereafter, his ship sailed to Pearl Harbor. At the end of the war, Chuck was ordered to return to the United States where he was honorably discharged from the U.S. Navy at Lido Beach, New York on October 14, 1945.

But Chuck's patriotism and sense of duty inspired him to re-enlist in the U.S. Navy on February 13, 1947 and train to become a radioman. In that capacity, he was assigned to the U.S.S. *Prairie* and stationed at the Atlantic City Naval Air Station until his second honorable discharge on February 5, 1952.

Near the end of his military career, Chuck married Laurel Kelley on January 25, 1951. Upon his discharge, they moved to Barberton, Ohio—known as the "Magic City." Chuck and Laurel have three adult children, Cathy, Linda and Jack, and have been blessed with nine grandchildren.

Chuck's commitment and dedication to his country and community did not end with his military career. During his years in Barberton, Chuck coached Little League and in 1959 joined the Barberton All Sports Boosters—on which he served as an officer for ten years and as president for three. Chuck also served as president of the Barberton Chapter of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes for five years and was the founder of the Barberton Sports Hall of Fame in 1979. Chuck was elected the first president of that organization and still serves in that position.

In 1980, Chuck was nominated for the Distinguished Service Award by the Barberton Jaycees for his sports activities in the community. He continued his strong commitment to youth and sports by organizing the Barberton Reunion Basketball game to honor the Barberton State Champs of 1976. The sold-out game raised money for the Barberton Little League, Crippled Children Circus Fund and the Barberton All Sports Boosters. Chuck also organized student dances at Barberton High and started the All Sports Banquets.

Among Chuck's many community service awards for these and other activities, he received the "Andy Palich Outstanding Athletic Service Award" from the Summit County Sports Hall of Fame, of which he is now a board member.

Chuck is now retired from Seiberling Rubber and from his employment as the Outside Bailiff for the Barberton Municipal Court. But he is not retired from his community. Chuck continues to dedicate even more of his time and boundless energy to promote sports among the youth of Barberton.

Mr. Speaker, I commend Chuck Ebner on his 75th birthday for his lifelong dedication and commitment not only to his country, but to his family and the youth of his community. He is a true role model for our young people. I wish him continued success and good health in the years to come.

A TRIBUTE TO MR. IRVING LITTMAN

HON. CARRIE P. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 25, 1999

Mrs. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mr. Irving Littman, who will celebrate his 80th birthday on July 27, 1999. Mr. Littman served with the First Field General Hospital in the invasion of North Africa in World War II. As a sergeant at that time, it was his duty to give anesthesia in the operating room to soldiers wounded in combat. Mr. Littman was awarded many citations and medals for his four years of gallant military service to his country.

Upon return to the United States after the war, Mr. Littman became one of the youngest Lincoln-Mercury dealers in our nation. He retired to Florida. He campaigned for elected officials, and was the secretary/treasurer for the Milton Littman Scholarship Foundation, which to date has presented 236 one-thousand-dollar scholarships to worthy young students from four different high schools in Dade County.

Mr. Littman is married to his beloved wife, Mavis, and they have a loving daughter, Francine. It is a privilege to pay tribute to such a compassionate American citizen as Mr. Irving Littman on the occasion of his upcoming birthday, and I wish him many more years of health and success in the service of his community.

KOSOVO REFUGEES

HON. STEVEN R. ROTHMAN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 25, 1999

Mr. ROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, I am submitting today for the RECORD the enclosed article written by Mr. Leonard Cole of Ridgewood, New Jersey. Mr. Cole, who serves as the distinguished chairman of the Communal Unity Committee of United Jewish Appeal Federation of Bergen County and North Hudson and as vice chair of the Jewish Council for Public Affairs, recently returned from refugee camps in Tirana, Albania. In his article, Mr. Cole eloquently illustrates the remarkable humanitarian efforts being made by the Jewish Agency for Israel, the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, in association with the United Jewish Communities, to assist refugees displaced as a result of the conflict in Kosovo. I am confident that all of our colleagues will find much food for thought in this well written article.

[From the Jewish Standard, May 14, 1999]

FINDING KINDNESS AMID CHAOS

(By Leonard A. Cole)

Nearly 15 years ago, on a two-day mission to Israel, I witnessed lines of bedraggled Ethiopian Jews emerge from an El Al airplane. They had suddenly been transported from a 14th-century existence in Ethiopia to a 20th-century life in Israel. Last week, during another two-day mission, I witnessed a sad obverse. In the company of Israeli and American Jews, I visited refugees in a camp in Tirana, Albania, whose lives have been reduced to primitive survival. Among the

800,000 ethnic Albanians booted out of Kosovo, 5,000 were crowded into this Tirana camp. Living eight and nine to a tent, able to bathe once a week, they are uncertain where or if they have a future. The only heartening similarity between the experiences of the Ethiopian Jews and Kosovar Muslims has been the rapid humanitarian response by Jews and other caring people around the world. And none have shown more caring than the people of Israel.

For seven weeks, out of noble intention, NATO has been pounding Yugoslav targets with bombs and missiles. The attacks were intended to stop Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic's policy of murder and deportation of ethnic Albanians from his country's province of Kosovo. Milosevic's penchant for "ethnic cleansing" is too reminiscent of Hitler's war against the Jews for the Jewish people not to support intervention. But diplomatic and military miscalculations have become painfully apparent: the failure of NATO's firepower quickly to stop Milosevic's actions; the depressing likelihood that the bombing actually accelerated the deportations; the destruction of unintended targets, including the Chinese embassy, a hospital complex, and convoys of refugees. The unanticipated calculus was underscored for me by the sight of scores of U.S. helicopters sitting idly in Albania's major airport. Although touted as especially effective against ground targets, none has yet been used, apparently in fear that Serbian firepower was still too threatening to these low-flying craft. Exactly how the military and political issues will be resolved remains uncertain. What is clear, however, is that the victims of the conflict need immediate attention.

In the early hours of May 5, our plane, chartered by the Jewish Agency for Israel (JAFI), was preparing to take off from Ben-Gurion airport. We were beginning a two-day whirlwind of visits to Albania, Hungary, and back to Israel. We would be traveling through a thicket of suffering, but also witnessing efforts to alleviate that suffering. Under the auspices of the newly constituted United Jewish Communities (UJC), some two dozen representatives from North American federations had come to bear witness. Described by the UJC as a "rescue mission," our venture really was more a search—a search for information, for meaning, and ultimately for ways to help.

"Leave the last 12 rows empty," the stewardess instructed. Along with other bleary-eyed passengers, I squeezed into the forward section. Our weight was needed as a balance for the supplies that had been loaded into the rear cargo area. Like 23 previous flights from Israel, eight of them chartered by JAFI, the main purpose was to deliver supplies obtained from contributions by Israelis and Jews throughout the world.

At the refugee camp, we watched as carton after carton was unloaded from trucks that had transported them from the plane. In orderly fashion the boxes were opened and the contents were distributed by representatives of various humanitarian groups, including JAFI, the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee (JDC), and Latet, an Organization of Israeli volunteers.

And it is well to remember that JAFI, JDC, and other helping agencies, in association with the UJC, are truly the point organizations for the rest of us. The money and supplies have come from federations and from individual Jews around the world. Israeli citizens alone have contributed more than \$1 million in food, blankets, towels, diapers, soap, toys, and more. The Israelis built and staffed the first field hospital in a refugee camp.

Delivering supplies to the Albanian Muslims was only part of the humanitarian ef-

fort we witnessed in that part of the world. We next flew to Hungary, where we met dozens of Jews from Serbia who fled the bombings and were now guests of the Hungarian Jewish community in Budapest. On the second day of the war. Asa Zinger, head of the Jewish community in Belgrade, Yugoslavia, phoned his counterpart in Budapest, Gustav Zoltai. When told of the distress among the 3,000 Jews of Serbia, Zoltai quickly arranged for his community to receive as many of them as possible. Both leaders, now in their 70s, are Holocaust survivors. "For us," said Zoltai, "it would be difficult to know of such suffering by a Jewish community and not to help."

About 400 Jews from Serbia have become guests of the Budapest Jewish community. Since males between 14 and 65 cannot leave Serbia, families are now being split. In some cases, mothers have come with their children to Budapest; in others just the children have been sent.

But that is not all. Israel is also playing host to Muslim and Jewish refugees from the fighting areas. In fact, when we flew back to Israel that evening, 32 Yugoslav Jews who had been staying in Budapest came with us.

Some were coming as visitors, and others to make aliyah. All these efforts are also being assisted by JAFI and the JDC—that is, through resources provided by Jews everywhere.

In Israel, we visited with several of the hundreds of Kosovars and Serbs—Muslims and Jews—that the state is hosting.

Each had his own sad story, though all expressed gratitude for the kindness extended by Israelis and other Jews. Perhaps the most memorable exchange occurred when a member of the UJC delegation asked a Jewish family from Kosovo what they had expected before arriving in Israel. Anita Conforti, 22, translated her mother's answer into English: "Warm deserts and cold people."

What did you find after you got here?
"Paradise."

UNION CARBIDE CORPORATION TECHNICAL CENTER IN SOUTH CHARLESTON CELEBRATES ITS 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ROBERT E. WISE, JR.

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 25, 1999

Mr. WISE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to extend my congratulations to the Union Carbide Corporation Technical Center in South Charleston in celebration of its 50th Anniversary.

As an innovator for Union Carbide activities worldwide, the Technical Center was first occupied in April of 1949 in the Research Building. Occupants from the Union Carbide South Charleston Plant soon occupied the Technical Center.

Since that time 50 years ago, the site has grown to approximately 650 acres with approximately 125 acres developed. By offering support through research and development of technology used in the chemical industry and providing engineering for the construction of plant facilities and support to computer systems, the Technical Center offers worldwide assistance to Union Carbide manufacturing businesses.

Building upon its success as an innovator as a multinational petrochemical company, Union Carbide now provides 25 percent of the

world's manufacture of polyethylene. It should come as no surprise that Union Carbide has garnered awards for three of its products and services which were primarily developed at the Technical Center. These include the UNIPOL process for polyethylene, the low-pressure OXO process, used to make alcohols and acids and finally the production of ethylene oxide and the derivatives of ethylene oxide, in which Union Carbide is the world's largest producer.

I commend Dr. William H. Joyce, CEO of Union Carbide Corporation and the employees of the Technical Center and look forward to continuing a very productive working relationship. The Technical Center, in addition to being a highly profitable and decorated organization, has been a good corporate citizen in its involvement as volunteers in the area and a good partner for the community.

I again congratulate the Union Carbide Corporation Technical Center in recognition of its anniversary and offer my wishes for continued success and prosperity.

TRIBUTE TO MS. AMANDA IANNUZZI, BRONZE CONGRES- SIONAL AWARD WINNER

HON. MICHAEL F. DOYLE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 25, 1999

Mr. DOYLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in praise of an outstanding young adult from the 18th Congressional District of Pennsylvania, Ms. Amanda Iannuzzi, a Congressional Award medal recipient. Amanda's commitment to self-development and community involvement serves as an inspiration to people of all ages, and illustrates the accomplishments that come with hard work and determination.

Without motivation, however, hard work and determination are destined to remain unfulfilled ideals. Amanda's motivation breathed life into innumerable commendable acts. Not only did Amanda involve herself in volunteer work, but invested time in broadening her artistic and physical skills. While much of what is directed towards young people is prescriptive in nature, it is important to note that these acts were of Amanda's own design and were completed with her own resolve.

Upon review of Amanda's achievements, one is particularly struck by the considerable amount of time that was devoted to obtaining this award. Hundreds of hours over the course of months were invested. Clearly, Amanda recognizes the immense value of giving one's time to help others. It is my hope that your actions foreshadow a life distinguished by the pursuit of new challenges.

Congratulations Amanda! Best wishes to you for continued success.

IN TRIBUTE TO THE LATE SHEL SILVERSTEIN

HON. PETER DEUTSCH

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 25, 1999

Mr. DEUTSCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in tribute to the life of Shel Silverstein, acclaimed

children's author. I am deeply saddened that Shel Silverstein passed away at the age of 66 in Key West, Florida, on May 10, 1999. We mourn the loss of a man whose legacy will be remembered for years to come.

Mr. Silverstein is best known for his children's poetry, but I think it is safe to say that his poetry is enjoyable to adults as well. I, myself, am quite familiar with his works, as my daughter Danielle is a big fan of his poetry. Indeed, I am sure that many of my colleagues would recognize his work which includes *Falling Up*, *A Light in the Attic*, and *Where the Sidewalk Ends*.

Over the course of his career, Shel Silverstein won numerous awards for his work, including the Michigan Young Readers Award for *Where the Sidewalk Ends*. His books, which Shel illustrated himself, are packed with humor and colorful characters, and sold over 14 million copies throughout the course of his life. This is truly a testament to the widespread appeal of his work.

Though books such as the *Giving Tree* were the catalyst which led to Shel Silverstein's international acclaim, few people realize that Shel began his career in the 1950s while serving with the United States armed forces in Japan and Korea. While stationed overseas, Mr. Silverstein began drawing cartoons for "Stars and Stripes," the American military publication.

Apart from his success as a writer of poetry, Shel Silverstein was also successful in his attempts to write country-western music. In 1969, Johnny Cash made the Silverstein-penned tune "A Boy Named Sue" into a bonafide hit. Loretta Lynn made Shel's song "Ones on the Way" famous as well. In 1980, Shel even recorded an album of his own called "The Great Conch Train Robbery." This title clearly shows Shel's fondness for his home in Key West, as the title references the car of his friend Buddy Owen, owner of B.O.'s Fish Wagon, one of Shel's favorite places to eat.

Mr. Speaker, while Shel Silverstein's passing is a tremendous loss for our nation and the world, I can say without hesitation that his kindness and generosity will be missed especially by the Key West community. He was an extraordinary human being, but we are lucky to have so many wonderful memories of his life and work.

HONORING SISTER BRIGID DRISCOLL

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 25, 1999

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join in honoring sister Brigid Driscoll, President of Marymount College, who, as a prominent figure from my district, has been a role model for the espousal of women's education for the last forty years. Sister Brigid, who will be retiring from her position in June, has devoted her life to Marymount College, establishing its solid foundation within the educational arena and the greater Tarrytown, New York community.

For more than twenty years as its president, and before that as an administrator and faculty member, Sister Brigid's visionary leadership

has overseen Marymount's transformation from a homogeneous liberal arts college exclusively for women, to an institution that maintains a strong focus on women, while serving an inclusive population of adult and international students. She has been recognized as an outspoken supporter of state and federal financial assistance for students, as well as a public policy advocate for independent higher education.

Among Sister Brigid's many contributions to Marymount was her vision for an educational setting that would enable many people in the surrounding communities to reach their full potential through education. In 1975, Sister Brigid founded Marymount Weekend College, one of the country's first full bachelor's degree programs for working women and men exclusively in the weekend format.

Sister Brigid's leadership and interest in the community is far reaching, as is her service and expertise in the field of education. Currently, she serves as a board member of First American Bankshares, Inc., the Westchester County Association, and as a member of Women's Forum, a group of 300 leading women in the professions, arts, and business in New York whose membership is by invitation only. In the educational sector, her present directorships include Saint Mary's College in Notre Dame, Indiana, Marymount School in New York City, the National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities, and the New York State Commission of Independent Colleges and Universities.

In the past, Sister Brigid has served on the board of Axe-Houghton funds, the Statue of Liberty/Ellis Island Commission, the United Way of American Second Century Initiative, the National Board of Girl Scouts USA, Governor Mario Cuomo's task force on the General Motors Plant Closing in Tarrytown, and Governor George Pataki's Transition Team for Education. Her previous directorships include the Council of Independent Colleges, the Westchester Education Coalition, and the Association of Catholic Colleges and Universities, where she also served as a representative to the Consultation on the Apostolic Constitution on Catholic Universities in Rome.

Recently, the issue of gender bias in America classrooms has sparked a national advertising campaign supporting women's achievements in education. Sister Brigid served on the committee of the Women's College Coalition that approved the creative content for the national campaign. Before the idea of this campaign was ever conceived, Marymount College, with the full support of Sister Brigid, responded to the challenge of making the educational needs of all women and girls a priority by creating the Marymount Institute for the education of women and girls, an organization offering workshops to educators and parents in the area of gender equity.

For her dedicated and distinguished service in many areas of professional and community life, Sister Brigid has been honored by the Westchester Chapter of the National Conference of Christians and Jews, the Sleepy Hollow Chamber of Commerce, and the Saint Jude's Habilitation Institute. Governor George Pataki honored her earlier this year with the Governor's Award for Excellence from the New York State Division of Women.

Honorary Doctorates of Humane Letters have been bestowed on Sister Brigid by Siena College and Marymount Manhattan College

which, in addition, presented her with the Alumni Association Award for Distinguished Life Achievement. Now, at the close of the millennium, Marymount College has conferred upon its esteemed leader the Honorary Degree of Doctor of Humane Letters. Finally, in a ceremony later this month, Sister Brigid will be granted an Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters by the College of New Rochelle.

After hearing this brief portrait of a remarkable woman, I know that my colleagues will want to join me in honoring and commending Sister Brigid Driscoll for her many achievements. I am confident that she will remain a vital component of Marymount's commitment to achieving equality of opportunity for women.

We join with Sister Brigid's many friends, students and admirers in wishing her good health and happiness in her retirement.

INTRODUCTION OF THE CITIZEN LEGISLATURE AND POLITICAL FREEDOM ACT

HON. JOHN T. DOOLITTLE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 25, 1999

Mr. DOOLITTLE. Mr. Speaker, today Majority Whip TOM DELAY and I are joining the chorus of calls in Congress for campaign finance reform because we agree that the current system is broken. There is something fundamentally wrong with the way political campaigns in America today are financed.

However, the reforms encompassed in the bill we are introducing today take a very different direction than most bills that have been introduced on campaign finance thus far. These bills share a common thread—they call for more government regulation into federal campaigns.

I believe that the proposals that call for greater regulation of our campaign finance system misdiagnose the problem. I submit that what has caused our failed campaign finance system is the regulation itself. If we want to deal with the real, underlying problem, we need to undo the regulations.

The Doolittle-Delay approach is the proper remedy to what ails our campaign finance system in that it removes the regulations. Moreover, and no less important, is that this approach is consistent with the Constitution because it restores our first amendment right to engage in political speech.

In 1974, in the wake of Watergate, Congress threw a regulatory web over the campaign finance system, a system that had gone largely unregulated throughout our nation's history.

Within two years of the reform's passage, the Supreme Court, in *Buckley versus Valeo*, struck down major parts of the new regulatory scheme on first amendment grounds.

Since that time, the campaign finance regulators have blamed every problem involving campaign financing on the Court's decision. There are those of us, however, who believe the problem is not that which the Court struck down, but rather that which was left intact, the present campaign finance law.

The regulators would do well to remember that it was not the Supreme Court that put unreasonably low limits on how much individuals and groups could contribute to campaigns

while failing to index those limits for inflation. It was not the Supreme Court that ran roughshod over the first amendment rights of office-seekers and other citizens. And it was not the Supreme Court that stacked the deck against challengers, locking in incumbents at an unprecedented rate. No, the problem is not that the Court invalidated part of the regulators; grand scheme; the problem is that too much of their scheme remains intact.

I believe it is time we declare "the emperor has no clothes." It's time to dispel the myths perpetuated by the architects of today's failed campaign finance scheme. And while the regulators devise new such schemes on how to limit participation in elections and eliminate money from campaigns, we should look at the real problems that have been caused by their regulatory approach to reform.

Today's campaign finance system requires current and prospective office-holders to spend too much time raising money and not enough time governing and debating issues. The present system has also failed to make elections more competitive and allows millionaires to purchase congressional seats. While a millionaire can write a check for whatever amount he or she wants to their election campaign, everyone else is forced to live under the same hard dollar limits that were put in place in 1974, which have not even been adjusted for inflation.

Today's system hurts voters in our republic by forcing more contributors and political activists to operate outside of the system where they are unaccountable and, consequently, less responsible. The big government reformers agree with me on this point, but their solution, of course, is more regulation. Beyond being unconstitutional, more regulation, such as banning soft money and limiting issue ads (ala Shays-Meehan), will only make the system worse. I don't often agree with my hometown newspaper, the Sacramento Bee, but last year they put out an editorial on CFR which I agreed with on many points. Speaking about the Shays-Meehan bill they said: "It centers on two big wrong-headed reforms: prohibiting national political parties from collecting or using 'soft-money' contributions, and outlawing independent political advertising that identifies candidates within 60 days of a federal election. That means the law would prohibit issue campaigning at precisely the time when voters are finally interested in listening—hardly congruent with free speech. Since that kind of restriction is likely to be tossed by the courts as a violation of constitutional free speech guarantees, the net effect of the changes will be to weaken political parties while making the less accountable 'independent expenditure groups' kings of the campaign landscape."

I couldn't agree more. Because as long as we have a shred of a Constitution left, individuals will have the ability to act independently and spend as much as they have want on po-

litical causes. So, the net result of a Shays-Meehan bill would be to push political spending even farther away from the responsible candidate-centered campaign.

These are the problems we face today. And before we decide which reforms should be implemented, we need to decide where we want to go, and what kind of new system we wish to create.

To me, the answer is simple. Our goal should be a system that encourages political speech, and promotes freedom and a more informed electorate. We should strive for a system in which any American citizen can compete for and win elective office; a system that is consistent with the Constitution by allowing voters to contribute freely to the candidate of their choice.

By removing the limits on contributions, scrapping the failed presidential finance system, and providing full and immediate disclosure, the Citizen Legislature and Political Freedom Act would dramatically move us toward a desirable, constitutional, and workable campaign finance system.

**HOLT-LUCAS-MOORE "LOCK-BOX"
WILL PROTECT SOCIAL SECURITY
AND MEDICARE**

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 25, 1999

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer, along with my colleagues, Representatives LUCAS and MOORE, legislation to safeguard two of our nation's most important programs for the elderly, Social Security and Medicare.

As I travel around my central New Jersey District, I hear constantly from people who rely on Social Security and Medicare. Congress has no greater domestic priority this year than strengthening and protecting Social Security and Medicare. Our bill would ensure that that priority is recognized in law.

The Holt-Lucas-Moore Social Security and Medicare "lock-box" would require that every penny of the entire budget surplus, not just the Social Security surplus, be saved until legislation is enacted to strengthen and protect Social Security and Medicare.

Any new spending increases would have to be fully offset until solvency has been extended for Social Security by 75 years and for Medicare by 30 years. This requirement would be enforced by new points of order against any budget resolutions or legislation violating this condition.

My colleagues and I believe that spending any projected budget surpluses before protecting and strengthening Social Security and Medicare would be wrong. Projected budget surpluses over the next decade offer a once-

in-a-lifetime opportunity for addressing the challenges that Social Security and Medicare face. This hard-won achievement resulted from responsible steps that were taken in the past. We should not deviate from the path of responsibility now, with problems looming over the horizon for Social Security and Medicare. In fact, we should follow the old adage to "fix our roofs when the sun is shining." This is in keeping with what the President has proposed.

Some portion of the surpluses outside of Social Security and Medicare will be needed to address the challenges that those programs will face. Thus, we should save Social Security and Medicare first before squandering any of the Social Security surplus, the Medicare surplus or any other government surplus.

Furthermore, paying off the public debt can make an important indirect contribution to the sustainability of Social Security and Medicare. Virtually all economists, including Federal Reserve Chairman Greenspan, argue that paying down the public debt would increase national savings, promote long-run economic growth and create a larger future economy to support a larger, retired population. Fiscal discipline has served our economy well in recent years by helping to sustain the longest peacetime expansion in United States history.

We are offering this proposal now because we are concerned about the carelessness with which some Social Security "lock-box" proposals are being brought to the floor, completely bypassing the normal committee process. Proposals to protect and strengthen Social Security and Medicare deserve thorough examination and careful consideration. Congress should not take short-cuts when considering changes to these hallmark programs for America's seniors.

For example, Congress is expected to consider this week the Herger-Shaw "lock-box" bill, which offers only the minimum protection for Social Security and Medicare. While Herger-Shaw does attempt to protect the Social Security surplus, merely doing this does nothing to extend solvency for Social Security, and it does nothing at all for Medicare. The Holt-Lucas "lock-box" is superior to Herger-Shaw because its lock-box is more secure and has more money in it. Holt-Lucas saves the entire surplus, not just the Social Security surplus.

Mr. Speaker, Social Security and Medicare are some of the most important and successful programs of the 20th Century. We must not forget that they provide vitally important protections for American seniors. A majority of workers have no pension coverage other than Social Security, and more than three fifths of seniors receive most of their income from Social Security.

Let's put the need of America's current and future retirees first